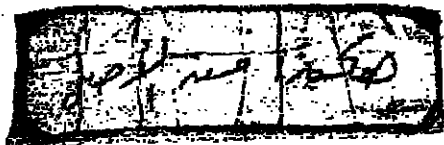


Settler gets 4 months for murder

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli court gave a leading Jewish West Bank settler a four-month sentence Monday for killing a Palestinian but deferred a ruling on whether he would serve the time in a jail. In the West Bank village of Bnei Na'im, a Palestinian woman who allegedly tried to stab a soldier was shot and critically wounded on Monday by another soldier. Villagers identified her as Nariman Mansour. The court found Phanas Walestein guilty of causing death through negligence in the January 1988 killing of 16-year-old Rashed Hussein Ghassan in Beitza village, 16 kilometres north of Jerusalem. The court said it would decide on Aug. 29 whether to sentence Walestein to four months in prison or just to public service. He was fined \$3,400 and also given a 12-month sentence suspended for two years. Walestein, a regional leader of the settlers, claimed he acted out of self-defence.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي



Mitterrand suggests EC summit

PARIS (R) — French President Francois Mitterrand said on Monday European Community (EC) heads of state should consider holding an emergency meeting to debate developments in the Soviet Union. He told French television that such a meeting would be worthwhile following Tuesday's meeting of EC foreign ministers in the Hague on the overthrow of President Mikhail Gorbachev. "It's worth deeper study, joint measures and immediate action to (put pressure on) the Soviet Union," he said. But he said it was premature to speak of sanctions against Moscow. New Soviet leader Gennady Yanayev has informed Chancellor Helmut Kohl that President Gorbachev is in safety and not under any threat, a German government spokesman said in Bonn. The letter, delivered by Soviet Ambassador Vladimir Terekhov, said Moscow would continue its current reforms and foreign policy, spokesman Norbert Schaefer said. It also explained the new leadership's reasons for ousting Gorbachev, he added.

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Hardliners topple Gorbachev

Yanayev, with support from military and KGB, assumes power

Yeltsin puts up stiff resistance

Combined agency dispatches

COMMUNIST HARDLINERS backed by tank columns seized power Monday from President Mikhail Gorbachev in a coup that threatened the reforms he used to transform the Soviet Union and end the cold war. But the seizure of power ran into a defiant challenge from radical leader Boris Yeltsin.



Gennady Yanayev

Mr. Gorbachev was detained at his vacation home in the Crimea, said a spokesman for Mr. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Republic.

Vice-President Gennady Yanayev, who took over as president, claimed Mr. Gorbachev was "very tired" and was undergoing treatment for ill health, though he declined to discuss Mr. Gorbachev's exact whereabouts. The action was widely perceived as a coup.

Mr. Gorbachev was to have returned Monday for Tuesday's signing of a treaty, opposed by hardliners, that would have given the restive republics more power at the expense of the Communist-dominated central government.

Mr. Yanayev said he was taking over under a state of emergency and was supported by an eight-member committee that includes the KGB and top military and police officials.

He said at a press conference later his government intended "to continue" to pursue the reforms that Mr. Gorbachev started in 1985.

Thousands of armoured vehicles poured into Moscow, and long columns of tanks thronged the pavement. Dozens of armoured vehicles surrounded the Russian Federation building.

Thousands of demonstrators filled the rain-soaked streets of central Moscow, climbed on top tanks and personified carriers, and confronted soldiers in rioting matches.

"We won't stand for it," cried Muscovite Alexander Muzhin.

Mr. Yeltsin, the nation's other best-known leader, quickly became

the focus of resistance, climbing atop one of the vehicles and urging the Russian people to fight back with an immediate general strike.

Mr. Yeltsin appealed to the armed forces to reject orders from the committee, saying it was illegal.

"Soldiers, officers and generals. The clouds of terror and dictatorship are gathering over the whole country," he said. "They must not be allowed to bring eternal night."

Some soldiers fraternized with worried crowds on Moscow streets. But there were no immediate reports of any units disobeying the orders of Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, who is a member of the emergency committee.

The Soviet armed forces have followed the orders of the ruling Communist Party since the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.

The hardliners, headed by Mr. Yanayev, set up the eight-member leadership committee called the State Committee for the State of Emergency, which declared a six-month state of emergency in the country. Mr. Yanayev was declared acting president.

The committee includes the heads of the KGB, the military, and the police.

(Continued on page 5)

Yanayev — a 'convicted Communist,' page 4

King, Assad assess impact of Gorbachev ouster on Mideast

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held talks in the Syrian port city of Latakia Monday and, according to official sources in Amman, the focus of the discussions was expected to be the impact of the changes in the Soviet Union on the Middle East peace process following the ouster of President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King, who arrived in Latakia early Sunday, and President Assad "reviewed the developments in political efforts to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and solve the Palestinian problem."

The agency said the King and President Assad "exchanged views on the peace process and the proposed solutions for the Arab-Israeli conflict" and agreed to maintain coordination between Jordan and Syria.

Also discussed were means to enhance bilateral relations and follow-up work on the implementation of decisions made by the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee, Petra said.

Senior sources said in Amman that while the central theme for the two leaders' talks remained the Middle East peace process, the focus had shifted to the dramatic developments in Moscow and their effect on efforts to



His Majesty King Hussein with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad at the Syrian port city of Latakia Monday

convene a Middle East peace conference in October.

"The central theme of the King's talks with President Assad will be the possible impact of the Soviet changes on the Middle East peace process and other related issues," said one official source.

The Latakia talks were attended by Prime Minister Taher Massri, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, and Foreign Minister Abdullah Ensur as well as Minister of Youth Saleh Irshaidat and Jordan's Ambassador to Syria Nayef Al Hadid.

On the Syrian side, the talks were attended by Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi, Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharaf and Syria's Ambassador to Jordan Majid Abu Saleh.

The King's visit to Syria — scheduled prior to the early Monday ouster of Mr. Gorbachev — is his second after the Gulf war ended in late February. On March 25, the King visited Damascus and held talks with President Assad on coordination of positions towards American efforts to arrange Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Jordan withholds comment on Soviet events; officials see profound impact

By Nermeen Murad

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordanian government issued no official comment on the sudden change of Soviet leadership Monday, but officials expected that the removal of President Mikhail Gorbachev from power would have profound impact on international relations and could mean a qualitative change for political developments in the Middle East.

"Any political development of this magnitude is bound to have its impact on the global level with the Middle East being no exception," Information Minister Khaled Karaki told reporters. But, he added that it was too early to make any judgement. "We are closely monitoring the developments," he said.

A senior government official said the dramatic developments in Moscow had shifted the focus of the talks that His Majesty King Hussein was hav-



Mohammad Udwan

ing with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

"The central theme of the King's talks with President Assad will be the possible impact of the changes in the Soviet Union on the Middle East peace process and other related issues," said the official, who asked for anonymity.

Jordan's ambassador to the Soviet Union, Mohammad

Udwan, told the Jordan Times that "major qualitative change" was expected after the removal of Mr. Gorbachev.

"It will not just be cosmetic," Dr. Udwan said in a telephone interview from Moscow. "Change will be translated into different policies both externally and internally."

"If the leadership succeeds in maintaining power there will be change with the West and either way that will be reflected on regional problems, including the Middle East," he said.

"We have to expect major changes internationally," he added.

The ambassador expected that relations between the Soviet Union and Jordan "will not change drastically."

"Change will be within the overall global strategy, especially towards the Middle East," Dr. Udwan said.

(Continued on page 5)

Bush 'disturbed,' cuts aid

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine

(Agencies) — President George Bush Monday called the stunning coup that ousted Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev "a disturbing development" and questioned whether the Soviet people would surrender newfound freedoms to a military regime.

The president had little information about the remarkable turn of events in Moscow. He said all U.S. aid to the Soviet Union was on hold and that he expected Western allies to adopt a similar stance.

Mr. Bush was highly critical of the coup, which he said violated the Soviet constitution.

"This is a very hardline group that has elected to take matters into their own hands," Mr. Bush said. "I've said over and over again that we did not want to see a coup backed by the KGB and the military, and apparently that is what is under way."

Mr. Bush lamented the apparent fall of Mr. Gorbachev, the charismatic Soviet leader whose calls for reform helped usher in a new era of superpower relations during the Reagan and Bush admi-

nistrations.

"I always felt that he represented the best opportunity to see reforms go forward," Mr. Bush said of Mr. Gorbachev. "He represented enormous productive and fantastic change, and I think throwing him out in this manner is counterproductive, totally."

"Clearly it's a disturbing development... and it could have serious consequences for the Soviet society and its relations with other countries," Mr. Bush said.

White House spokesman Roman Popadiuk said Mr. Bush cut short his vacation to return to the White House Monday, remaining overnight to meet in the morning with Secretary of State James Baker, and swear in the new U.S. ambassador to the Soviet Union, Robert Strauss.

He plans to return to his vacation home on the Maine seacoast on Tuesday, Mr. Popadiuk said. He did not elaborate.

Mr. Bush stopped short of condemning the shakedown but said all U.S. aid to the Soviet Union was on hold. And he pointedly said:

"Coups can fail."

"What hasn't been heard from yet is the people in the Soviet Union," he said.

"Clearly it's a disturbing development," Mr. Bush said. "There's no question about that. And it could have serious consequences."

Mr. Bush repeatedly referred to notes while making his cautious statement, and his National Security Adviser, Brent Scowcroft, stood by his side in a small cottage on the Bush compound in Kennebunkport.

Mr. Bush offered praise for Mr. Gorbachev, said to be under house arrest in the Crimea as tanks patrolled the streets of Moscow.

Mr. Bush could offer little insight on the day's remarkable developments or their effect on U.S.-Soviet relations, including the arms race and plans for a Middle East peace conference later this year.

He said the situation was "still quite murky" and that he was in

(Continued on page 5)

What lies in store? page 4

Iraq, Libya welcome Soviet change

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq

Monday welcomed the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and expressed hope the change in leadership will restore "the correct international balance."

Baghdad Radio said the ruling Revolution Command Council, in a meeting chaired by President Saddam Hussein, said in a statement that it still considers the Soviet Union a friendly country but that Iraq had been harmed by the policies of the previous Soviet government.

"Therefore, it is natural for us to welcome this change, as do the countries and nations that were hurt by the policies of the former regime," the council said in the statement aired on the radio.

"We hope that this changes will contribute towards restoring the correct international balance to prevent hegemony and aggression on the rights of nations and the sovereignty of states and to order international relations on the basis of equality, respect for sovereignty and legitimate mutual interests," the statement said.

Iraq will positively respond to every initiative of friendship from the Soviet Union in its new age. We wish it success in the tasks it has announced in the statement issued by the new Soviet leadership," the Iraqi statement said.

Iraq's reference to the "correct international balance" seemed to reflect a change in Soviet leadership might limit U.S. influence.

Iraq's state television interrupted normal programmes to broadcast reports on Mr. Gorbachev's removal without commenting on them.

Prior to the Gulf war, the Soviet Union was a major arms supplier and ally of Iraq. However, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait the Soviet Union joined with the United States and other U.N.

(Continued on page 5)

Jordanians hail changes in Moscow, page 4

Palestinians pleased by Gorbachev's fall

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R)

— Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, convinced Kremlin cooperation with Washington harms their cause, welcomed the fall of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

"The changes in the Soviet Union, perhaps, could reduce Israel's intransigence and tone down the blind support the United States gives to Israel," said Jad Ishaq, a professor at the Vatican-run Bethlehem University in the West Bank.

"I am happy for what happened. Perestroika has destroyed the Soviet Union internally and curtailed its international role, allowing the United States a free hand," said Nablus businessman Said Kanaan.

Palestinians are frustrated by the lack of achievements in their 44-month-old struggle to end Israel's occupation. They hope a new Soviet leadership will back them in peace talks with Israel.

Washington has been working with Moscow to organise a Middle East peace conference in October. Though keen for Arab-Israeli peace talks, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip oppose U.S. and Israeli plans to exclude the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

News of Mr. Gorbachev's overthrow gripped the 1.75 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip Monday. People going to work or shopping exchanged happy remarks over Mr. Gorbachev's ouster.

"No one in Gaza is sorry for him. Everyone says: 'to hell with him,'" said a Palestinian journalist describing the mood in the impoverished coastal area.

In Bethlehem, a Palestinian doctor who had refused to listen to news broadcasts since Iraq's defeat in the Gulf war, said he was ending his boycott.

Palestinians say Mr. Gorbachev's permission for more than 250,000 Soviet Jews to migrate to Israel since 1989 and his support for Washington in the Gulf war weakened Arabs and allowed Israel to dictate terms for peace talks.

"Gorbachev sent thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel. He withdrew support to Arab countries



Mikhail Gorbachev

representation of the PLO at the conference, the establishment of an independent Palestinian state, an active major role for the United Nations at the conference and complete Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including East Jerusalem.

But Mr. Gorbachev had effectively dropped these Soviet demands by accepting the American conditions and giving Washington the supreme lead in the peace process.

The overthrow of Mr. Gorbachev has sparked hope that Moscow will pick up all or even some of its old demands to back the Arab negotiating position, analysts say. The hopes were strengthened by the fact that the

(Continued on page 5)

Gorbachev defied 70 years of Soviet history, page 4

World stunned, markets in chaos

Combined agency dispatches

FINANCIAL MARKETS plunged into confusion and world markets were stunned Monday after the Soviet announcement that Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev had been ousted by hardline conservatives.

Vice-President Gennady Yanayev said he was taking over as president with the support of the defence minister, the KGB and police chiefs and other officials.

U.S. President George Bush called it a "disturbing development" which he said could affect relations with the United States.

But Mr. Bush said at his holiday home in Kennebunkport, Maine, he expected the Soviet Union to live up to its commitments and treaty obligations.

British Prime Minister John Major said Mr. Gorbachev had been removed by an "unconstitutional seizure of power" but said this would not signal a return to the cold war. Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Soviet people to protest on streets for democracy.

French officials said Western leaders may consider holding talks on the situation. Mr. Major talked by phone with other leaders and French President Francois Mitterrand raised the possibility of a summit.

U.S. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said it was too soon to judge the new government in the Soviet Union but he said Mr. Gorbachev's overthrow would not lead to a civil

war.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Gorbachev's closest Western ally, broke off his holiday, a government spokesman said.

"This puts a big question mark on the way for their moves

to democracy.

Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel compared Monday's events in the Soviet Union with the crushing of the 1968 Prague spring liberalisation movement by Soviet tanks.

"The developments in the Soviet Union cannot but make us recall the sad historical events that took place at this time more than 20 years ago," Mr. Havel told a news conference in Prague.

Poland's President Lech Walesa was "very much concerned by the developments in the Soviet Union," a spokesman said.

In Hungary Prime Minister Jozsef Antall called in his government's crisis staff to discuss Mr. Gorbachev's removal, Hungarian Radio said.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) called an emergency meeting of senior officials for later Monday at the alliance's Brussels headquarters.

"The recent developments... are reasons for great concern," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said in a statement.

European Community foreign ministers will assess relations with Moscow at an emergency meeting on Tuesday, Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek said.

Many governments said they were deeply concerned and convened crisis sessions.

Belgian Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said: "There's... major anxiety in all the Western capitals and, I imagine, also in countries in central and eastern Europe."

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Mr. Gorbachev's closest Western ally, broke off his holiday, a government spokesman said.

"This puts a big question mark on the way for their moves

(Continued on page 5)

Dollars, gold and oil prices go up, page 7

Israelis call for massive evacuation of Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli officials called Monday for preparations for a possible large wave of Soviet Jewish immigration following the ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Mr. Gorbachev, whose six years of rule transformed the Soviet Union from a repressive nation into a free society, was declared unable to perform his duties and Vice-President Genady Yanayev said in an emergency decree that he was taking over as president.

In mid-1989, the Soviet Union opened its gates to Soviet Jews. Since then over 290,000 Soviets have immigrated to Israel.

A statement released by Simcha Diniz head of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency responsible for immigration, said he hoped "the gates of immigration will continue to remain open and that there be no change in Soviet policy regarding that."

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was "following the situation and looking for more information," a statement from his office said.

Uri Gordon, head of the Jewish Agency's immigration department, told Israel Radio: "The only thing we can do at this time, is first of all to make immediate emergency preparations in Israel because it is very possible that in a very short time, large numbers of Jews will arrive."

Science Minister Yuval Neeman, too, said Israel "has to prepare to absorb many Jews if they are allowed to leave."

Mr. Neeman noted that KGB Chairman Vladimir Kryuchkov, one of the eight members of the emergency committee, had spoken in a televised speech to the Soviet parliament against the immigration, calling it a "brain drain" that was planned as a

"Western plot."

"So I hope that in any case the situation will not end up with the closing of the gates," he added on Israel Radio.

About 60,000 Soviet Jews, according to Jewish Agency figures, hold exit permits.

"Many will want to leave," said Mr. Gordon, "because all of us are aware that this may be the end of the Gorbachev regime and if God forbid there will be civil war there, the Jews want to leave in very large numbers."

The Jewish Agency was meeting Monday to reorganise in light of the new situation and Mr. Gordon said transit stations in Eastern Europe would be expanded on "the assumption that they (the Soviet Jews) would be allowed to leave."

Israeli officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, ruled out a possible airlift of Soviet Jews, mainly for logistical reasons.

In May, Israel evacuated 14,500 Ethiopian Jews from Addis Ababa in a 36-hour airlift as rebels advanced on the Ethiopian capital.

The statement from Mr. Diniz said "the policy which the Jewish Agency has always taken... is that we would like to bring out the maximum number of Jews in the minimum amount of time."

Soviet Jewish immigrants learned on arrival in Israel Monday that Mr. Gorbachev had been overthrown and expressed fears for relatives still in the Soviet Union.

"I am afraid of what will happen to my son and his two children who were supposed to come here in the next few days," said Iliya Birgart, a 65-year-old engineer from the Ukraine. "He has got all his papers and I hope nothing will hold him back."

Mr. Birgart was among 55 immigrants on a flight from Warsaw who learned of Mr. Gorbachev's overthrow only after landing at Tel Aviv airport Monday afternoon.

"We had no sign that anything was about to happen but many people have warned that the regime was weak and could fall," said Rivka Riva, a 76-year-old woman from Lithuania arriving with her daughter and granddaughter.

Pesach Zelman Gerhowitz, 71, and his wife also told Reuters they were concerned for family left in the Soviet Union.

"We have left a daughter behind because her son... joined the army two weeks ago and he now has to serve two years, therefore she can't leave. We are very worried," said Mr. Gerhowitz.

There are no direct flights for immigrants between Moscow and Israel and those arriving had left the Soviet Union for transit points in other countries before the removal of Mr. Gorbachev.

The flight from Warsaw was one of four expected to arrive on Monday from Europe, carrying more than 400 Soviet immigrants.

Despite the concern, Areyeh Levin of the Israeli consulate in Moscow, which issues visas for Israel to the immigrants, told Israel Radio that work was continuing normally.

An official from the Soviet Civil Aviation Authority sent a cable to Israel's El Al airlines saying civilian air traffic with the Soviet Union was normal.

The Soviet Jewry Zionist Forum, a group aiding Soviet immigrants, called on the Israeli government Monday to work for the immediate evacuation of Jews still in the Soviet Union.

Afghan peace moves threatened

KABUL (R) — The removal of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could halt efforts to find a peaceful solution to the Afghan war, diplomats said in Kabul Monday.

"The new authorities in Moscow will want stability above all else on their southern border and are unlikely to want any significant changes," one Asian diplomat said.

Monday's change of guard in Moscow, dubbed a right-wing coup by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, came as a complete surprise in Kabul, government sources said.

Afghan President Najibullah could be the biggest beneficiary, gaining new support from hardliners in Moscow, European and Asian diplomats said.

Recent peace efforts would most likely be put on hold, they said, speaking as guerrilla fighters marked Afghanistan's independence day by firing several rockets at the city.

Mr. Gorbachev earlier this month sent senior envoy Nikolai Kozlov to Pakistan for talks with Pakistani officials and Mujahadeen leaders on a solution to the 13-year war.

In Peshawar, the Pakistan base for guerrilla operations against the Kabul government, one Mujahadeen leader said he feared the Soviet Union might now increase aid to Kabul.

"This may lead to more support for the Kabul regime and a hardening of the Soviet position on Afghanistan," a spokesman for the Jamiat-Islami group said.

Though Mr. Gorbachev oversaw the withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan by February 1989, he has continued to pour in huge amounts of weapons, fuel and food to prop up Mr. Najibullah.

With the withdrawal, U.S. interest in backing the Mujahadeen through Pakistan began to wane and Afghanistan came to be regarded as a relic of the cold war that both Washington and Moscow wanted removed from their agendas.

Radical guerrilla leader Yunus Khalis said in an interview he believed the Soviet change could help to revive the Mujahadeen's war against Kabul.

"Both the Soviets and the Americans did not particularly want to see an independent Afghanistan," the head of Hezb-islami (Khalis) said.

"The possibilities are greater now that America will not abandon Afghanistan," he said.

Mr. Najibullah meanwhile accused guerrilla leaders of squandering chances for peace and proposed that impartial religious leaders and other prominent Afghans could act as mediators in the 13-year-old war.

Mujahadeen failures to embrace fully a United Nations plan for ending the war "waste suitable opportunities for peace and continue to impose suffering on the people and further destruction on the country," he said in a speech Sunday.

Speaking on the eve of Afghan independence day Monday, Mr. Najibullah said if the Mujahadeen agreed to his proposal they could nominate leaders they trusted to act as mediators.

The Soviet-backed government in Kabul would do the same, and the groups could meet to try to narrow the gap between the two in the war, he told a meeting of Afghan political leaders, diplomats and reporters.

The proposal could be extended to Mujahadeen commanders inside the country who are trying to topple the Najibullah government.

British businessman shot dead in Turkey

ISTANBUL (Agencies) — A gunman killed a British businessman on his way to the office Monday, a British embassy spokesperson said.

Anonymous callers claiming to speak for two underground organisations, the Islamic Jihad and the leftist Dev Sol organisation, claimed responsibility, newspaper said.

Andrew Blake, the deputy director of the British Commercial Union Insurance Company, was shot at about 8 a.m. right after he stepped out of an elevator, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

Mr. Blake, 33, was shot twice in the head and was in a coma when he was taken to a hospital, where he died while undergoing surgery, Anatolia said.

An anonymous caller to the Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet said "the Islamic Jihad undertook its first real action in Turkey to protest the deployment of a multinational force in Turkey," the newspaper said.

The caller, who spoke in broken Turkish, identified himself as a Turkish Kurd, the newspaper said.

A U.S.-led multinational force has been stationed in Turkey after its withdrawal from northern Iraq, which followed a four-month mission of repatriating Iraqi Kurds. There are 173 Britons among the multinational force.

The Iraqi Kurds fled to the mountains on the Iraq-Turkey border following a failed Kurdish rebellion against the Iraqi government in March, after the Gulf war. Iraqi troops crushed the rebellion.

The Islamic Jihad, the Lebanese fundamentalist umbrella group that has claimed the kidnapping of several Western hostages, has also claimed responsibility for attacks against Arab diplomats in Turkey in the past.

The Istanbul daily Milliyet said it received a call from an anonymous person claiming the attack in the name of the leftist Turkish

group, Dev Sol. The caller said the businessman was killed in revenge of "the killing of their friends on July 12," the newspaper reported.

Turkish police killed 12 suspected Dev Sol members in operations in Istanbul and Ankara that day.

Dev Sol also claimed the bombing of the company's office, located in the affluent Esentepe district, in January. The bombing caused slight damage.

Police refused to comment about the claims.

A British businessman close to Mr. Blake said the Briton had told him he had been put on a "hit list" by Dev Sol.

The British ambassador to Turkey, Sir Timothy Daunt, said he was shocked by the killing.

"I'm extremely shocked," he told Reuters. "We don't know at this stage what to attribute this to. If it turns out to be Dev Sol, there are implications we have to consider for the safety of British people living here."

Dev Sol said it was behind the killings of two Americans and a string of bombings against Western targets in Turkey during the Gulf war.

American John Gandy, 52, an executive in a company which services U.S. military bases in Turkey, was shot dead in Istanbul last March in an attack claimed by Dev Sol.

It also said it was responsible for the Feb. 7 killing of American customs expert Bobbie Mozelle, who worked for the same company that employed Mr. Gandy — Vinnell, Brown and Root.

Commercial Union Turkey, a joint venture of Commercial Union Assurance Company of Britain and the private local Finansbank, was hit by a bomb planted by Dev Sol during the Gulf crisis.

A spokeswoman for the company, located in Istanbul's central business district Gayrettepe, said in tears that it had no clue as to who killed Mr. Blake. He had been in Turkey for about a year and leaves a wife and two children, aged seven and three.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

4 killed, four hurt in Lebanese tanker blast

BEIRUT (AP) — An explosion and fire aboard an oil tanker unloading in the port of Tripoli killed five people and injured four others, the ship's chief mechanic said Monday. The mechanic, Garo Koibitiana, said officials did not know what caused the explosion Sunday afternoon as it was unloading fuel three kilometers off the port of Tripoli, 80 kilometers north of Beirut. He said the blast ignited a fire that destroyed most of the cabins on the tanker. Mr. Koibitiana said all of the dead were Panamanian sailors and that three of the injured were Filipino.

Iranian oil minister meets King Fahd

JEDDAH (AP) — Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh met late Sunday with King Fahd and delivered a message from Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) said Monday. The agency did not disclose the contents of the message or give any other details on the talks held late Sunday night. Saudi Arabia was the second leg of Mr. Aghazadeh's Gulf tour and followed a one-day stop in Kuwait. Mr. Aghazadeh field talks earlier with acting Saudi Oil Minister Abdul Wahab Al Attar. During that meeting, SPA said the two discussed strengthening bilateral relations, especially in the petroleum field. Diplomatic sources said Mr. Aghazadeh's visit to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia coincides with the preparation for the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) meeting in Geneva on Sept. 24. Saudi Arabia is the leading OPEC producer with a quota of 8.03 million barrels per day. Iran has a quota of 3.2 million barrels daily. Total OPEC production ceiling is 22.2 million barrels a day, with an exclusion of Kuwait and Iraq.

Mubarak meets Yemeni foreign minister

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met Yemen's foreign minister Monday in the first visit to Egypt by a senior minister from Sanaa since the Gulf war. Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) said Abdul Karim Al Iryani, carrying a letter for Mr. Mubarak from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Salhi, met the Egyptian president in Alexandria. Yemen sympathised with Iraq during the war and opposed the U.S.-led military campaign to recapture Kuwait from Iraqi occupation forces. Cairo was a key member of the anti-Iraq alliance. Mr. Iryani arrived Sunday and told reporters after meeting Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa that his country supported U.S. plans for a Middle East peace conference.

Israel and Albania establish diplomatic ties

TEL AVIV (R) — Albania and Israel established diplomatic relations Monday, the Foreign Ministry said. Albanian Foreign Minister Muhamet Kapllani and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy signed the protocol. The two countries have never had official relations but ties have improved in recent months. In April, Israel airlifted more than 300 Albanian Jews to the Jewish state. Formerly headline Communist Albania, Europe's poorest country, held multi-party elections in March and has had a non-partisan unity government since June.

Mauritania announces more amnesties

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Mauritania Sunday announced an amnesty for people sentenced in absentia who have been in exile for 15 years or more. A decree published in the capital Nouakchott was the second amnesty programme announced by President Maouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya in three weeks. It said most fugitives had one month to apply, after which the programme would expire. Mr. Ould Taya's government has on several occasions denounced what it claimed were plots by the desert country's blacks to overthrow the ruling Moorish elite. Amnesty International and other human rights groups have accused the government of killing, torturing and imprisoning hundreds of blacks.

Palestinians are pleased

(Continued from page 1)

renew contacts with the group which were cut off last year.

The U.S. dialogue with the PLO began in late 1988 and was severed after a failed attempt by Lebanese guerrillas to attack the Israeli coast in May 1990.

Also Sunday, an Israeli official said President Hosni Mubarak has invited Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to visit Egypt "at any time" for a summit.

It was the first report of an invitation to an Israeli prime minister to visit Egypt in five years.

Gil Samsonov, spokesman for Mr. Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc, said the invitation was conveyed by Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister Youssef Wali, during their meeting in Cairo Sunday.

Mr. Samsonov is heading the Likud's first delegation to Egypt. A spokeswoman for Mr. Samsonov said Mr. Wali told him of "a dramatic change in Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's approach to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir over the last 10 days."

"Wali reported that President Mubarak has invited the Israeli prime minister to visit in Egypt at any time he wishes, and (Mr. Wali) added his personal confidence that the two could meet

soon," the statement said. It was not clear whether any specific date or other details for a summit were discussed in the Cairo meeting.

The PLO said Sunday it alone would decide the composition of a Palestinian delegation to the peace conference.

It said in a statement this was one of the guarantees Palestinians would seek from the United States ahead of the conference.

This and other guarantees sought by Palestinians have been the subject of weekend talks in London by a committee of PLO officials, Palestinian nationalist leaders and academics.

"The committee is expected to conclude its work on Monday outlining the Palestinian approach on guarantees the PLO requires from the United States regarding the Middle East peace conference," the PLO statement said.

The PLO statement said the recommendations of the London committee, working on instructions from PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, would focus on "the necessity for guarantees that the goal of the proposed conference be to enforce U.N. resolution 242 requiring an end to Israeli occupation and its withdrawal from territories occupied in 1967."

Ethiopia denies Israeli claims

ADDIS ABABA (AP) — Ethiopia Monday vehemently denied Israeli claims that it had agreed to allow the immigration of 2,600 Ethiopian Jews left behind after a dramatic airlift of thousands of Jews in May.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement that there was no agreement on the immigration of the Ethiopian Jews to Israel and that the government had not discussed the subject with Israeli authorities.

"The transitional government of Ethiopia categorically states that no, repeat, no such agreement exists and in fact the government has never even discussed such an issue with the government of Israel or any other party," the statement said.

The transitional government of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, which seized control after President Mengistu Haile Mariam resigned and fled May 21 in the face of the rebel advance, has said it is not opposed in principle to the immigration of the Jews.

But the statement did not elaborate on why the transitional government was taking this stand on immigration question.

The statement contradicted reports in Israel Friday first by the news media and later by the Israeli foreign ministry that said Ethiopia had agreed to allow the Jews to leave and that the first group of 600 would be brought to Israel before the Sept. 9 Jewish new year.

The remaining 2,000 Jews were to travel from their villages in the Gonder province to the capital, about 700 kilometres away, and then fly to Israel on commercial airliners.

Likud says 'autonomy' is the only solution

CAIRO (R) — Members of Israel's right-wing Likud Party said during their first official visit to Egypt that autonomy for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip was the only way to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But they ruled out any division or compromise on Jerusalem, at the centre of controversy between Arabs and Israel.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who met the delegation for more than an hour Sunday, called on Likud to be more flexible in efforts to convene an Arab-Israeli peace conference in October but added that East Jerusalem was occupied Arab land.

"We are offering Palestinians autonomy. It is on the table now. It is on the table since the time we signed a peace agreement with Egypt," said Gil Samsonov, spokesman of the ruling Likud party, after the talks with Mr. Musa.

"We must focus on the autonomy agreement as it is the solution to (the West Bank) and Gaza Strip," said David Mena, director general of the Israeli employment service.

Mr. Musa, speaking separately to reporters, said Palestinians would have autonomy for a transitional period followed by negotiations to decide the final status of the occupied territories.

Mr. Samsonov said the delegation told Mr. Musa that Egypt made a big mistake eight years ago by ignoring the fact that Yitzhak Shamir was Israel's prime minister and that the Likud was the ruling party.

"Egypt was waiting for another party to take over, a party that will compromise much more," said Mr. Samsonov. "But the

party that can make peace that can convince the Israeli people to make peace with other Arab countries is Likud."

He said he hoped President Hosni Mubarak and other Egyptian leaders would visit Israel and open a dialogue with Israelis to help peace efforts.

"I say after 13 years of peace (with Egypt), we still don't have any meetings between the leaders of our countries," he said. "How can you convince us to speak about peace with other countries... (when) we have such a peace which is not so warm?"

Diplomats have described Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, the Jewish state's only peace treaty with an Arab state, as being a cold peace.

Mr. Mubarak has refused to invite Mr. Shamir for an official visit to Egypt and has personally blamed him for blocking a Middle East peace settlement. He has said he could visit Israel if he believed it would achieve concrete results.

Mr. Musa said East Jerusalem, seized and "annexed" by Israel during the 1967 war, was subject to U.N. Resolution 242, which demands Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

He told Mr. Musa that the Likud believed Jerusalem was "united and must remain united."

"When the foreign minister (Mr. Musa) speaks about it as occupied territory, I told him no. It is not occupied territory as (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip..." he said.

Israel has given qualified support for Arab-Israeli peace talks provided they do not involve delegates from East Jerusalem or representatives of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

| JORDAN TELEVISION | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Tel: 773111-19 | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | |
| 18:00 | Documentary |
| 18:30 | Satellite Channel |
| 19:00 | News in French |
| 19:15 | Aujourd'hui en Jordanie |
| 19:30 | News in Hebrew |
| 20:00 | News in Arabic |
| 20:30 | Perfect Strangers |
| 20:55 | Musiciens in Jordan |
| 21:10 | Our House |
| 22:00 | News in English |
| 22:20 | Columbo |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 04:35 | Fajr |
| 05:50 | (Sunrise) Dhuhr |
| 12:30 | Dhuhr |
| 16:18 | Asr |
| 18:26 | Maghreb |
| 19:17 | Isha |
| CHURCHES | |
| St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swaidah Tel: 910740. | |
| Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637765, 683326. | |
| St. Joseph's Church Tel. 624990. | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440. | |
| De la Soie Church Tel. 661757 | |
| Terrace Church Tel: 622366 | |
| Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541. | |
| Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543. | |
| Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331. | |
| Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772561. | |
| St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. | |
| Armenian International Church Tel. 685326. | |
| Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295. | |
| The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932. | |
| Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675491 | |
| WEATHER | |
| Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. | |
| Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be westerly/moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly/moderate and sea calm. | |
| Amman | Min./max. temp. 17 / 30 |
| Aqaba | 25 / 37 |
| Deserts | 21 / 35 |
| Jordan Valley | 25 / 38 |
| Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 54 per cent, Aqaba 31 per cent. | |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| AMMAN: | |
| Dr. Ahmad Al Nasser | 653934 |
| Dr. Abdul Wahab Awad | 846700 |
| Dr. Khalil Abdul Qader | 795392 |
| Dr. Abdul Majid Al Shaer | 791405 |
| First pharmacy | 661912 |
| Perfumes pharmacy | 778336 |
| Al Azzam pharmacy | 763055 |
| Natroukh pharmacy | 623672 |
| Al Salam pharmacy | 636730 |
| Yacoub pharmacy | 644945 |
| Shmeisani pharmacy | 657660 |
| Emergency: | |
| Police | 199 |
| Fire Brigade | 192, 621111, 637777 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Highway Police | 843402 |
| Traffic Police | 894390 |
| Public Security Department | 630321 |
| Hotel Complaints | 602800 |
| Police Complaints | 661176 |
| Water and Sewerage | 897467 |
| Complaints: | |
| Amman Municipality | 787111 |
| Complaints: | |
| Abdullah Telephone Repair | 623101 |
| Al Shamsa's Pharmacy | 278025 |
| REGIONS: | |
| Amman | 623101 |
| Aqaba | 661101 |
| Deserts | 774111 |
| Jordan Valley | 680100 |
| Water Authority | 815615 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |

EMERGENCIES

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Food Control Centre | 637111 |
| Civil Defence Department | 661111 |
| Rescue: | |
| Civil Defence Emergency | 630341 |
| Rescue Police | 192, 621111, 637777 |
| Fire Brigade | 891228 |
| Blood Bank | 775121 |
| Highway Police | 843402 |
| Traffic Police | 894390 |
| Public Security Department | 630321 |
| Hotel Complaints | 602800 |
| Police Complaints | 661176 |
| Water and Sewerage | 897467 |
| Complaints: | |
| Amman Municipality | 787111 |
| Complaints: | |
| Abdullah Telephone Repair | 623101 |
| Al Shamsa's Pharmacy | 278025 |
| REGIONS: | |
| Amman | 623101 |
| Aqaba | 661101 |
| Deserts | 774111 |
| Jordan Valley | 680100 |
| Water Authority | 815615 |
| Jordan Electricity Authority | 815615 |

SSC retirement law reaffirmed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Citizens covered by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) law can claim early retirement at the age of 45 and receive pension from the SSC provided they have subscribed to the SSC for at least 15 years, according to an SSC official.

He said that pension would be calculated in accordance with the age, which means that the older a beneficiary is the larger the pension is, depending on his salary and the premiums.

According to the official, people between 46 and 50 years of age, claiming pension, will have their pension reduced by 10 per cent; those aged 51 to 54 will have their pension reduced by only five per cent.

In accordance with the SSC laws, beneficiaries who reached the age of 55 will receive full pension in accordance with the SSC scale which takes into account age, salary and the premiums paid over the years.

SSC Director General Mohammad Saqqaf told the Jordan Times that there was no motive behind the announcement at this particular time. He said that the announcement was a mere reassertion of the laws of the SSC, drawing public attention to the fact that citizens are entitled to early retirement under the SSC law.

Mr. Saqqaf said that a total of 220,000 beneficiaries were currently covered by the SSC law. They are all entitled to the early retirement scheme provided they have met all the requirements.

Last month, Mr. Saqqaf announced that the SSC expected to collect JD 26 million in revenues by the end of 1991 from its JD 400 million investments in economic projects in Jordan.

Out of this sum, JD 20 million will be needed to cover the corporation's obligations and expenses for the year, leaving a surplus of JD 6 million, according to Mr. Saqqaf.

The SSC invests in the agriculture, industry, tourism, and other areas which earn profits for the beneficiaries, said Mr. Saqqaf.

Mr. Saqqaf said that SSC currently pays monthly pensions to 11,500 families. A total of 143,500 people have already received a lump sum compensation at the end of their services, while 64,000 workers have benefited from compensation and per diem payments after incurring occupational injuries.

Exporters trying to take advantage of CBJ decision

AMMAN (J.T.) — Encouraged by a Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) decision to cancel a 1988 order requiring exporters to furnish guarantees that proceeds of exports in foreign currency be returned to the country, representatives of exporters of agricultural products Monday held a meeting to discuss ways to benefit from the new opportunities.

The meeting, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, was attended by the director general of an agricultural marketing organisation, the president of the Jordanian Exporters Association and exporters of vegetables and fruits.

According to Petra, the participants decided to set up a committee to work out a set of rules designed to organise the exporters' operations.

New centre for handicapped children opened in Mafrak

MAFRAQ (J.T.) — Although the number of handicapped people in Jordan is estimated to be clear weight per cent of the population, other than 8,000 of that number receive care at the Kingdom's 58 rehabilitation centres, according to the Social General Union of Voluntary Associations (GUVS) President Dr. Abdullah Al Khatib.

To care for the handicapped, the country requires JD 90 million a year but the available funds are only between JD 4 and JD 5 million, Dr. Khatib said in an address at a ceremony for the inauguration of a new branch of the Al-Amal Centre for Special Education in Mafrak.

Her Majesty Queen Noor opened the branch, which is run by GUVS, and inspected its various activity halls and other facilities.

The Queen was told that the centre provides care for those with simple mental disabilities, between the ages of six and 12. The Mafrak branch can take up to 30 mentally handicapped children plus 25 who suffer from difficulties in hearing and speech.

The centre is one of nine which GUVS is building in Jordan. Over 90 per cent of these have already been completed and one is under construction in Salt. During 1991, GUVS expects to start working on a new centre in Tafleh.

The Al-Amal Centre for Special Education offers day care for children with minor and medium mental disabilities, according to GUVS officials. At the centre, children receive special education and rehabilitation sessions to develop skills to enable them to become independent.

According to GUVS officials, the centre in Mafrak was built on a four dunum plot of land and has an area of 400 square metres. It has five class rooms, an activity hall, a food hall, an administration office and sanitary rooms.

GUVS has set up a centre in Yajouz for the children with severe disabilities, offering rehabilitation services to 150 children.

Minister of Social Development Awni Al Bashir and senior officials were among those attending the inauguration ceremony.



Abdullah Al Khatib

Jordanians welcome change in Soviet leadership

Leftist parties hope new government reestablishes USSR as world power

By Marian M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Leaders of leftist parties in Jordan Monday welcomed the exit of Mikhail Gorbachev from the international political scene, saying that the Soviet Union had not only ceased to be a world superpower but had been paralysed by the former Soviet leader's unfulfilled political and economic programme known to the world as perestroika.

Citing a significant change in Soviet foreign policy, in particular towards developing nations in the Middle East, leaders of Jordan's main leftist parties said they hoped the change would reverse the Soviet attitude towards the problems of developing nations.

"Mr. Gorbachev failed to deal in any adequate way with the domestic problems that his country is facing," said Issa Madanat, Jordan's only Communist Member of Parliament. "There can be no doubt that the Soviet Union was heading towards an internal break-up as a result of the perestroika policies and the Soviet weakness to the uni-polar power, the United States."

Reflecting the general attitude of leftists in the country, Mr. Madanat said: "We hope that with Gorbachev gone, the Soviets will have another chance to keep their country in one piece and deal with their internal problems and reform their foreign policy to one that is independent of United States dictates."

Another leading member of the once outlawed Jordanian Communist Party, Emilie Nafsa, said that while she had initially welcomed perestroika as a format in which the Soviet Union would move towards a democratic socialist state, the policy introduced by the former Soviet leader almost five years ago had failed to have that desired effect.

"We hope that now the Soviet Union will get back on course to develop a framework which will allow a more democratic socialist system to govern," Mrs. Nafsa said. "To catapult a society such as the Soviet Union from a strict communist one to a capitalist one is rather unrealistic and thus was never expected to work."

Meanwhile, the head of the specialist-oriented Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP) said that the group's Executive Committee had met to decide on an official position on the question of the power change in the Soviet Union.

"We hope that the changes in the Soviet Union will bring back a balance of power to the international political arena," said Tayseer Zibri, head of the JPDP.

Commenting on the Soviet Middle East policy of late, Mr. Zibri said that he also hoped the Soviet government would reassert its willingness to re-establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

"The old policy had been to re-establish ties only after the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. But as a result of the strong American influence of Gorbachev, the Soviets had recently agreed to resume ties at the beginning of a peace conference," Mr. Zibri said.

"This would mean regardless of Israeli application of the resolutions 242 and 338 they would establish relations, which is quite contrary to their previous conditional stand."

Lower House Deputy Deeb Marji, a leading member of the Marxist Jordan Popular Unity Party (JPUP), reacted by saying the world needed a balance which it had lost.

"I believe in a balanced world and a uni-polar world is not balanced," the JPUP deputy said in a telephone interview. "Gorbachev effectively worked towards the creation of this uni-polar world as much as George Bush so his continued presence as Soviet president was really not desirable."

"We don't know what will happen in the Soviet Union now and



Issa Madanat

of course we hope that internal problems will remain minimal, but overall, we feel that Gorbachev's departure is a positive thing," he said.

Mr. Marji, like Mr. Zibri, expressed hope that massive Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied Arab lands would be curbed as a result of Monday's changes in leadership.

"Mr. Gorbachev made the large influx of Soviet Jewry to the Middle East possible. We hope those who take his place will curb this trend," he said.

Yousef Hourani, a member of the political bureau of the socialist Jordan Democratic Party, said that the two most important immediate aspects of the political changes taking place in the Soviet Union would be to maintain internal unity and to recreate a balance of international political forces.

"The new ruling forces in the Soviet Union must find a formula to maintain national unity in the state and to recreate a bi-polar international political system," Mr. Hourani said.

Walid Khayyat, a popular leftist leader who heads the Electric Workers Union and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, also welcomed the changes in the Soviet Union.

"The Jordanian people suffered as a result of the Soviet subservience to the policies of the United States," Mr. Khayyat told the Jordan Times. "We received the news about the Soviet Union with great comfort and congratulate the Soviet people on their new leadership."

Mr. Khayyat said that the new Soviet president, Gennady Yanaev, was a former president of labour unions and that as such he was a friend of the working class.

"I believe that the Soviets will end their blind acceptance of American hegemony over the world and will reinstate some of their previous policies," Mr. Khayyat said.

Among the pre-perestroika policies that Mr. Khayyat said he hoped the Soviet government would reinstate was a serious domestic economic policy and a rebuff of Zionist influences.

Public hoping new regime stems flow of Jews to occupied Arab territories

By Serene Halasa and Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The fall of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Monday sent shock waves throughout the world but many Jordanians hoped that this would put an end to American hegemony over world politics and restore the traditional role of the Soviet Union as the champion of the Third World.

In a survey conducted by the Jordan Times, many of those interviewed expressed reservations about the new regime in the Soviet Union, saying it was too early to make any definite conclusion regarding Soviet policy towards the Middle East.

"What happened is a serious development and many changes will take place," said Dr. Sari Nasir, a sociologist at the University of Jordan. "But we should wait and see, especially regarding (Soviet) Jewish immigration (to Palestine)."

Dr. Nasir also said that this change is important for Third World countries because it enhances the traditional role of the Soviet Union, specifically as an ally to the Arabs.

"It is important for the Soviet Union to act as a check and balance system because the U.S. should not be allowed to have a free hand (over the world)," he said.

"We announce our support for the new Soviet administration because it will work on developing cooperation and coordination in different parts of the world and it will work on protecting peace and international security which has been tilting towards the U.S.," said Marwan Sudah, a representative of an anti-Zionism front in the Arab and Muslim world.

Unlike others interviewed by the Jordan Times, Mr. Sudah expressed confidence "that this new administration will stand by the Arab peoples in combating Zionism."

He also said that the head of their front in the Soviet Union is Alexander Remaneko, a reserve officer in the Soviet army and the head of six different political parties in the USSR.

A computer specialist agreed with Mr. Sudah's stand, saying



Sari Nasir

that the new change in the Soviet Union "puts (President George) Bush back on his toes instead of being master of the universe."

"It is important that the Soviet Union remain strong to maintain the balance of the super powers," she added.

"The world is better off with two different leaderships and is even better if those two leaderships had different views," said Dr. Abdul Rahim Malhas, a general surgeon, referring to the close relationship between President Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

"Gorbachev betrayed everybody," said Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, a political science professor at the University of Jordan. "He betrayed Cuba, the Arabs — especially Palestinians — and if he had played differently he could have stopped the barbaric attacks against Iraq."

"I expected more out of him during the (Gulf) war," said Subair, a 22-year-old Palestinian. "His role was not sufficient and I don't think he was ever a friend to the Arabs."

The coup d'etat in the Soviet Union was carried out by a group of hardline communists, the right wing-State Emergency Committee, which announced Monday it was taking power. It was denounced by Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, who reportedly launched a counter offensive to restore Mr. Gorbachev to office.

The committee said that Vice President Gennady Yanaev was taking over because Mr. Gorbachev was incapacitated by ill-health.

The committee, which opposes

Mr. Gorbachev's policies, declared a six month state of emergency in parts of the country and said it would clamp down on the media and ban demonstrations.

Mr. Yeltsin, a radical reformer and president of the Russian Federation, leapt to the defence of Mr. Gorbachev, who changed the face of world politics when he took office in March 1985.

Mr. Gorbachev's perestroika reforms and policy of glasnost (openness) ended the hardline communist rule in Eastern Europe and the Cold War era.

"Gorbachev did too much too soon. He should have taken more time because his actions made many people in the Soviet Union worry about the future," said Dr. Nasir, referring to the ousted president's liberal policies.

"He should have been more forceful," a Jordanian of Armenian descent said.

"He should have made his stand clear. He did not have a fixed internal policy."

According to Dr. Hamarneh, the shift from a centralised government economy to a free market economy was too quick and the reforms were based on a U.S. formula that "is not the best."

"It reduced the Soviet Union to a power that was only a military power and the crisis in Iraq proved that," he added.

As for the future of communism, the Armenian community in Jordan expressed concern over the fate of the five million Armenians in the Soviet Union.

"We are very much afraid. History taught us (Armenians) that everywhere there is a change in the Soviet Union, my people suffer most," the Armenian said.

"Communism is a system that does not work. It never worked and I hope it will fall sooner or later."

"This will reintroduce the debate over communism and it will be interesting to show that communism and democracy are not incompatible," Dr. Hamarneh said.

On the other hand, Dr. Hamarneh welcomed a development in the Soviet Union that would maintain democracy and internal reform as well as continuing good links with Third World countries.

Israel continues systematic confiscation of Arab land

AMMAN (Petra) — Israeli authorities have seized more than three million dunums of Arab-owned land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip since their occupation in 1967, according to a report by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

Since the occupation, Israeli authorities have been pursuing efforts to encourage Jews to settle on Arab land and to build their settlements on confiscated Arab territories, the statement said.

In the past month, Israeli authorities confiscated nearly 80 dunums of Arab land in the West Bank and sealed them off as a military zone after uprooting fruit trees, said the statement.

Also in the past month, said the statement, Israeli officials have issued 69 orders for administrative arrests of Arabs ranging between three and 12 months and demolished 49 homes owned by Arab citizens.

The statement referred to a report by the London-based human rights organisation Amnesty International, which had said that Israeli authorities have so far imprisoned 8,000 Palestinians since the start of the intifada in 1987. It said that 4,000 Palestinians are now under administrative detention without trial.

The statement said that Israeli authorities are now planning to build a new prison in the Galilee area to accommodate another 580 detainees. Israeli officials have imposed curfews on tens of Arab cities and villages in the past three years, causing further sufferings to the indigenous population, according to the report.

Furthermore, Israeli authorities have periodically closed Arab schools and detained teachers, preventing children from continuing their basic education.

All Arab universities in the occupied territories have been closed since the start of the intifada, except for Bethlehem University, which was reopened in October.

Awqaf ministry pledges assistance to returnees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs is keen on offering all forms of assistance to the returning expatriates and will do so through the zakat committees affiliated to the ministry, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Raef Nijem announced Monday.

"The ministry and the zakat committees will be coordinating their work with a national committee set up by the government last week to take charge of offering assistance to the expatriates," said the minister at a meeting held at King Abdullah Mosque and attended by directors of awqaf and zakat funds in Jordan.

"We will have to carry out our mission as a united team, offering charity and help in all areas and in any form," said the minister in his address to the audience.

The return of the expatriates comes at a serious moment in Arab history as the Kingdom continues to face political and economic pressures designed to force it change its principled and honourable stands and abandon its Arab and Islamic brothers, said the minister. He said that by helping the Arab expatriates "we are doing our religious and humanitarian duty."

Mosque preachers last Friday issued appeals to the worshippers to extend a helping hand to the returning expatriates. They sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein pledging to do all in their power to contribute to the national effort.

Ministry Secretary General Ahmad Hilayel said the sermons in mosques had drawn very positive reaction on the part of the members of the public.

In addressing the audience after the minister, Dr. Hilayel said that Jordan was keen on maintaining unity of ranks among Muslims and Arabs. He warned against the enemies' attempts to dismember the Arab Nation.

Dr. Hilayel appealed to world organisations to come to Jordan's help as the Kingdom, he said, has only very limited resources to offer assistance to the expatriates and can by means shoulder the additional burdens by itself.

In another development, Mr.



Raef Nijem

Nijem left for Cairo to represent Jordan at the constituent meeting of the International Islamic Council for Relief which is due to open Tuesday.

In its four-day meeting, the Council will discuss projects related to Jerusalem, including custodianship Al Aqsa Mosque, protection to the religious and historical places of the city, creation of a special fund to take charge of the protection of Islamic lands in Jerusalem, and the reconstruction of the holy Dome of the Rock, the minister said in a pre-departure statement.

Referring to the reconstruction of the Dome of the Rock, he said that it was expected to cost \$7 million.

"These projects in the holy city are the responsibility of the Islamic governments and people and not of Jordan alone, as the case had been since 1948," said Mr. Nijem.

He said that Jordan had very limited financial means and could not cover the expenses by itself.

"So far, the Kingdom has spent \$6 million on the repair of the Dome of the Rock and other related services over the past two years and continues to finance the work of technical committees in the holy city," the minister added.

Mr. Nijem is accompanied to the Cairo meeting by the director of his office.

Industrial development project benefitting Jordanian organisations

AMMAN (Petra) — Progress in the implementation of an industrial development project which is being carried out by three Jordanian institutions was reviewed by Ministry of Planning Secretary General Safwan Toukan and the deputy director of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The three institutions implementing the project financed by USAID are the Industrial Development Bank, the University of Jordan and the Amman Chamber of Industry, according

to Dr. Toukan.

Through the project, the University of Jordan has set up a Department for Industrial Engineering, offering students bachelors and masters degrees in the field, according to Dr. Toukan.

He said that the new department has been provided with visiting professors and six Jordanian teachers have received higher training in the United States under the terms of the project. Furthermore, the department was provided with five laborator-

ies, eight computers and a library with 1,000 books, which helped graduate 100 BA students, 20 MA students and 25 others with diplomas in industrial fields, Dr. Toukan said.

As to the Industrial Development Bank (IDB), Dr. Toukan said the USAID grants helped to create a special unit for production and marketing which has so far offered 55 consultancy services to Jordanian industrial institutions, earning them JD 358,000.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Prince Hassan visits special forces unit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday visited one of the special forces units at its training site. Prince Hassan was briefed on the stages of training process the unit finished and its future training plans. The Crown Prince then watched the unit perform military exercises with live ammunition. The exercises included shooting selected targets. His Royal Highness then met with the unit's personnel and conveyed to them the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein. The exercise was attended by the Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for operations and training affairs, the inspector general and senior army officers.

Masri approves JD 200,000 for ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Taher Masri has given his consent to grant JD 200,000 to the Ministry of Public Works and Housing to help finance repair work going on in the southern regions of Jordan. The fund will be used to pay local contractors who carried out reconstruction and repair work at installations severely affected by last winter's storms.

Ministry reviews commercial sector issues

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Ali Abul Ragheb met Monday with the president and members of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and the federation of grocers. The meeting reviewed scopes of cooperation between the ministry and the commercial sector and ways of enhancing it. Mr. Abul Ragheb listened to demands by the federation of grocers and promised to study these demands. The meeting was attended by Ministry of Supply Secretary General Radi Ibrahim and several officials.

Officials visit bridges

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Palestinian Affairs Adel Irsheid and Public Security Department Deputy Director for Judicial Police Affairs, Brigadier General Nooredine Khair visited Monday the King Hussein and Prince Mohammad's bridges to inspect facilities offered to West Bankers and Gazans travelling to and from the occupied territories. Mr. Irsheid urged citizens at the crossing points to abide by regulations issued by the reservation centres of the Public Security Department so as not to face any difficulties. The movement of passengers over the bridges increased during the past several months due to the return of tens of thousands of Palestinian expatriates from Kuwait.

Jordan to have laser-research centre

AMMAN (Petra) — The third conference of the Arab Atomic Energy Committee, which was held in Tunis recently, has approved establishing a centre for laser researches in Jordan, according to Secretary General of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Assem Ghosheh who led Jordan's delegation to the conference. He said the conference decided to list the issue of desalinating sea water by using atomic energy on top of the committee's agenda.

Special education school opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day exhibition of handicrafts manufactured by handicapped students at the Special Education Model School was opened Monday at the Royal Cultural Centre. The exhibition, which was opened by the secretary general of the Ministry of Social Development, Mohammad Al Suqour, displays artificial flowers, ceramics, book covers, knit-wear and embroideries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of traditional embroideries and hand-made items at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel.
- Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by artist Shaker Al Jural at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILM

- French film entitled "Le The dans Harene Archimede" at Abdul Hameed Shomari Cultural and Scientific Centre — 7:30 p.m.

DIALOGUE

- Dialogue between U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs John Kelly and journalists from Amman, Cairo and Riyadh carried live over the Worknet satellite at the American Centre — 4:30 p.m.

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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After Gorbachev

MONDAY'S coup d'état in Moscow, in which Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was removed from power, came as a shock to the world, especially to all those who had placed their trust and confidence in democracy and reform as instruments for peaceful change and evolution towards the better. Obviously it is too early to assess the situation now emerging in the Soviet Union or its full impact whether in the positive or negative sense. Yet there is already fear that the country may be thrown deeper into disarray and instability, something that will surely have a profound negative impact on many countries of the world. Given what has happened on the international level over the past few years, one can understand, even sympathise, with the Soviet press who were naturally troubled by the dismantling of a country and rendering it a second class power instead of a superpower to reckon with. The timing of the coup which occurred on the eve of signing the new union treaty that Gorbachev himself had brokered as a reformist model to keep the country together suggests that the hardliners in fact feared that this new treaty could be the beginning of the end for their country.

From a global point of view the loss of the Soviet Union of its status as a superpower had not only troubled the traditional forces but also deprived the international order of the necessary checks and balances mechanism that is essential if not indispensable for maintaining a sound international order. Just as pluralism is vital to an operational democracy on a national level so is pluralism indispensable on the international scene as well. The best evidence of the deterioration in the status of Moscow was the humiliation that Gorbachev himself had sustained when he made a last ditch effort to avoid the ground war in the Gulf but was ignored by his American counterpart George Bush as a third rate leader trying to meddle in the offensive campaign against Iraq. There is no doubt that all those powers in the world which refrained from extending effective and timely support to the perestroika and glasnost policies of Mr. Gorbachev also bear the brunt of the responsibility for his downfall.

The impact of yesterday's dramatic change in the Soviet Union on political developments in the Middle East, including the peace process and the Iraqi situation, will likewise be profound and far reaching. If the cold war era has once again a grip on East-West relations, the peace initiative for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict could go to the backburner if not disappear altogether. On the other hand, a stepped up exodus of Soviet Jews into Israel, a particularly sour point from the Arab point of view, can be expected to be frustrated. If there is a return to traditional Soviet policies in the area, the Arab hand may be strengthened in any negotiations with Israel but to what extent and to what end is something that is clearly premature to assess. The insane blockade imposed on Iraq may also ease if the new leadership refuses to play second fiddle to the basically Western campaign against not only the Iraqi leadership but also the entire Iraqi nation and its people. It must be recalled that many senior Soviet generals were overtly disgruntled at the sight of disproportionate Western military operations against Iraq which happens to be so close to their southern flank. Yet, the biggest setback is the probable return to the cold war period, especially if the domestic situation in the USSR breaks down in ethnic and national turmoil and bloodshed forcing Washington and the other Western capitals to take a firm stand against maintaining the unity and territorial integrity of the Soviet Union by force. With the dawning of a new cold war situation, the advent of global nuclear warfare would become once again a real prospect instead of being a remote possibility as it is at this time. Mankind therefore has a stake in the ending of the confrontation era between Moscow and Washington on equal and fair basis acceptable to all.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily fiercely attacked the United States and its Western allies, particularly Britain and France, for pursuing their aggressive stand against Iraq and the Iraqi people depriving them of their means of subsistence and maintaining an embargo on Iraq's trade. The paper said that the Iraqis are now exposed to danger, coming not only from the Western aggressors but also from the Arab countries. It said that Iraq is bleeding, but with dignity, and is facing the criminals all alone. The Iraqi people are trying to cope with the situation hoping that their Arab and Muslim brothers would do something and they had never lost hope, the paper added. We condemn the aggressors acts against Iraq but we do not despair, nor do we fear the future, because this Arab Nation has confronted many dangers and aggressors in the past and is likely to do that in the future as well, said Al Ra'i. The paper said that history will curse those Arabs who fail to extend a helping hand to their brothers in need.

Sawt Al Shaab daily commented on His Majesty King Hussein's visit to Syria and said that coordination among the Arab states in direct confrontation with the Israeli enemy is a must at this juncture. The paper said the King's visit is aimed at exchanging views with the Syrian leaders before the beginning of the proposed peace conference in October. The Arabs can at least achieve unity of stand and purpose so that they can confront Israel's intransigence at the negotiating table, the paper noted. It said that the U.S. is unwilling to exercise any form of pressure on the Israeli aggressors, who are showing no flexibility in their stand, and so the Arabs should show solidarity and concert their efforts and unite their stand so as to regain their rights through peaceful negotiations. The paper said that King Hussein is spearheading the Arab countries' efforts to open channels of communication in the Arab World which is confronting Israel. There is an urgent need for the Arabs, the paper said, to follow in his footsteps in order to safeguard the higher national interests and secure the liberation of usurped Arab lands.

Yanayev, 'a convinced communist', becomes Soviet president

MOSCOW (R) — Gennady Yanayev, hand-picked by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a vice-president he could trust, replaced his mentor on Monday as Moscow Radio warned that the country had become ungovernable.

The former trade union leader and long-time Communist Party official was elected to the new post of vice president last December by the Congress of People's Deputies after much personal persuasion from Mr. Gorbachev and a second vote.

"I want someone alongside me I can trust," a grim-faced Gorbachev told deputies after first round of voting, when Mr. Yanayev's efforts to reassure the Soviet parliament that he was a "new-style" politician proved

only partially successful.

"I am a convinced communist to the depth of my soul. You can't make me budge from that," Mr. Yanayev told parliament.

Many legislators despaired at the selection of yet another party chief from the central bureaucracy, and a coalition of radical and republican deputies joined forces to deny him the post in the first round of voting.

Mr. Gorbachev then declared he was putting Mr. Yanayev's candidature forward for another vote.

"I support the ideas of perestroika," Mr. Yanayev told a somewhat sceptical Congress of People's Deputies after his nomination. "I have served them. I do serve them and I will continue to serve them."

If elected vice-president, he said, he would campaign "using legal democratic methods by arousing respect for the law among citizens against the political bacchanalia and political nihilism which the country is seeing."

"I am a man of action and want to work in the interests of my long-suffering people," the optimistic Yanayev said between the two rounds of voting. "The more difficult the victory the greater satisfaction from its result."

In the end it was on Mr. Gorbachev's long coat-tails, rather than Mr. Yanayev's own conciliatory rhetoric that he rode to victory.

Mr. Yanayev rose through the Communist Party's ranks in what is now dismissed in Moscow as

the "stagnation period" under Leonid Brezhnev in the late 70s. After years as a leader in the Komsomol, the party's youth organisation movement, 54-year-old Yanayev finally made it to the heights of party politics — a seat on the politburo.

But by the time of his appointment in mid-1990 at the 28th party congress, the once all-powerful politburo was in steep decline, no longer a clear asset to a politician on the make.

Mr. Yanayev, a stocky, hearty man who likes ice hockey, disarmed some of his critics in parliament with earthy Russian humour.

Asked about his health — always a concern in a country where life expectancy is low —

Mr. Yanayev said: "My wife says I am in good health. I have the same ailments as any normal, real man. I am a red-blooded fellow."

A Russian born in 1937, Mr. Yanayev graduated in 1959 from an agricultural institute in Gorky, since renamed Nizhny Novgorod. He later studied law and won a doctorate in history.

His doctoral thesis, "problems of Trotskyism and Anarchy," written at the Moscow Institute of the Workers' Movement, tackled a potentially explosive topic that would have been permitted only to the most ideologically reliable of students.

In 1980, Mr. Yanayev was named head of the committee on Soviet youth organisations. The Helsinki Sanomat, Fin-

land's biggest newspaper, recalled that Mr. Yanayev was a frequent visitor to the country, where his assertive style won him the secret nickname "rhinoceros."

The daily said Mr. Yanayev sided with hardliners in the struggle in the 1970s with the Eurocommunist wing of Finland's party.

In 1989, Mr. Yanayev was given the task of carving out a new image for the Soviet trade Union Movement after seven decades under strict Communist Party control.

But he failed to win much sympathy among increasingly disillusioned workers, particularly miners, who regarded him as a colourless bureaucrat.

What lies in store for U.S.-Soviet ties?

By Barry Schweid
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After initial doubts, the United States embraced Mikhail Gorbachev as a genuine reformer and supported wholeheartedly his attempts to force the Soviet economy and political system into step with modern times.

With Mr. Gorbachev now gone and hardliners in control, the Bush administration is scrambling to understand the future.

The question is this: Will the gains of the Gorbachev era unravel?

Less than three weeks ago, President George Bush and President Gorbachev signed an agreement to sharply reduce their stockpiles of long-range nuclear weapons. Together, they announced they would sponsor a peace conference in October to try to resolve the long-simmering Arab-Israeli conflict.

Those two actions symbolised the new U.S.-Soviet relationship: curb the military, seek peaceful solutions.

With tanks rolling Monday in Moscow, both the arms treaty and the peace conference seem remote.

The White House scrambled to understand the new Soviet leadership, a composite of military, KGB and political conservatives. "These guys are the representatives of the very hard old line," said Robert Conquest, a senior research fellow at the Hoover Institution.

The Bush administration had put its faith in Mr. Gorbachev and his reforms. At the Moscow summit late last month, Mr. Bush went out of his way to praise Gorbachev as a leader who "inspires great confidence in you."

But with customary caution, Mr. Bush held off from providing direct infusions of U.S. financial assistance despite Mr. Gorbachev's own warnings of dire consequences should the West fail to help him.

Mr. Gorbachev also had Mr. Bush's sympathy as he tried to keep the 15 Soviet republics from flying apart as independence movements surfaced in the Baltics, Soviet Georgia, the Ukraine and other areas swept up by nationalism and ethnic rivalries.

The administration counselled Mr. Gorbachev to seek peaceful solutions to the independence drives, but gave tacit approval to the secessionists in Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

At first, Mr. Bush and his top aides took a sceptical stance toward Mr. Gorbachev.

But as Mr. Gorbachev proceeded to undercut orthodox communism, permitting contested elections and steering the Soviets towards a market economy, wariness gave way to almost enthusiastic approval.

A candid exposition of the Soviets' economic woes and the decision to permit East Germany to swing out of the Soviet orbit reinforced the administration's faith in Mr. Gorbachev's leadership.

Yet, when such reformers as former Foreign Minister Eduard

Shevardnadze and Alexander Yakovlev quit, warning that the country could be headed into a reactionary reversal, questions were raised in the administration about Mr. Gorbachev's staying power.

Now, those fears have been realised.

Now much this largely cooperative superpower relationship will change is not immediately apparent.

Most critical would be signals regarding the military. Will the new leaders retract Mr. Gorbachev's pledges to reduce troops and weapons in Europe? Will they honour the freshly signed Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, which requires a 35 per cent reduction in Soviet long-range nuclear bombers, missiles and submarines?

Does the cold war begin anew?

Gorbachev experiment defied 70 years of Soviet history

By Thomas Kent
The Associated Press

IT WAS a radical experiment that defied 70 years of Soviet history, a leap into an unknown world of democracy and free enterprise.

For more than six years, it looked as if Mikhail S. Gorbachev would make the great experiment work.

The experiment was in jeopardy Monday. The state committee set up to follow Mr. Gorbachev in power said it will not renounce reforms, and it will almost certainly pledge to continue something of what Mr. Gorbachev stood for. It may also promise some form of continued democracy, and aggressive moves to restart the failing economy.

But it will be a nimble regime indeed that can quickly restore a sense at home and abroad that the Soviet Union is still squarely

on the road to becoming a Western-style democracy.

Mr. Gorbachev's experiment was a tough proposition to begin with. He sought to transform into a democratic institution a communist regime that had ruled by intimidation and violence since 1917. That regime itself was superimposed on a centuries-old Russian state that had no history at all of national democratic rule.

Mr. Gorbachev sought to establish the rule of law where citizens had known only official arbitrariness. He sought to create large-scale private enterprise in a culture that could barely remember tiny peasant businesses.

Perhaps most frightening to those in power, Mr. Gorbachev set out to dismantle a huge, rich and highly privileged network of police, soldiers and party officials who ran the Soviet state, silenced all opposition and benefitted hugely from the whole package.

These top officials and those

who served them would have to cede place and privileges to a new meritocracy — politicians elected by the people in free elections and business executives chosen not for their connections but for their ability.

Mr. Gorbachev moved carefully into the Soviet hierarchy, giving no one a good idea of what he had in mind for the country.

In 1979, under conservative President Leonid I. Brezhnev, he managed to have himself named to the politburo, the Communist Party's ruling body. Little was known about him other than that he had a specialty in agriculture, a no-win area of the Soviet economy.

He remained a little-known figure through the end of Brezhnev's reign but gained some stature during the short rules of his successors, Yuri V. Andropov and Konstantin U. Chernenko. Finally, in March 1985, he took over the party leadership, and change began with the slow speed but relentless movements of a freight train.

He began his reform programme in earnest in 1986, making the terms glasnost — public openness on selected controversial topics — and perestroika — radical overhaul of the economy — words known worldwide.

He freed dissidents from prison and freed the press from stifling censorship.

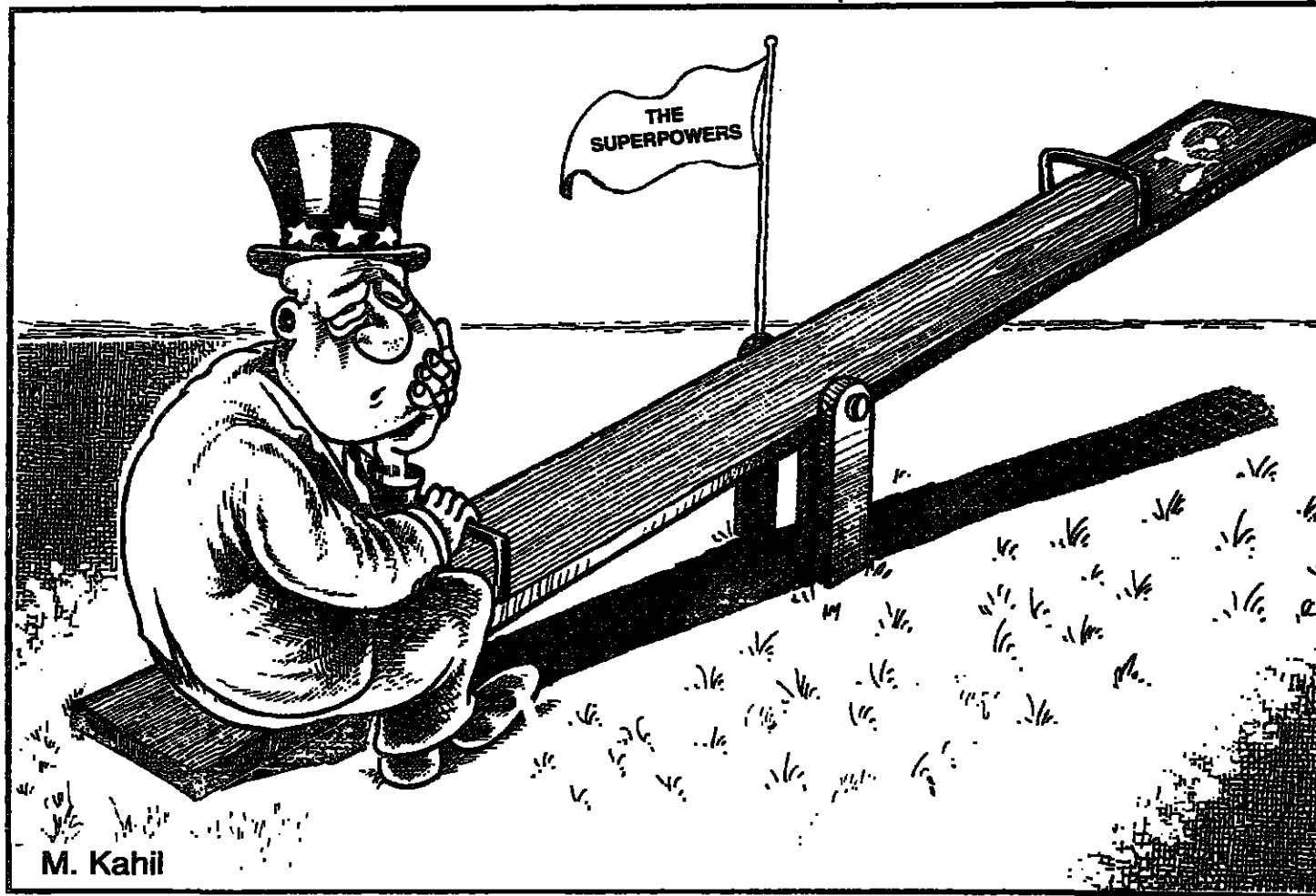
In 1988, he presided over the dissolution of the old Supreme Soviet, the communists' rubber-stamp national legislature, and replaced it with the first of several new institutions more like a Western parliament.

In 1989, he pulled Soviet troops out of war in Afghanistan and was elected president.

Last year, he ended the Communist Party's official monopoly on power and moved to create a stronger presidency.

He was ousted from power just before he was to tie up key details of the union treaty, an accord that would have given strong new powers to the nation's 15 republics, further weakening the central government but perhaps heading off attempts by some republics to secede.

The great experiment now stands in deadly jeopardy. Some parts of it may well be picked up by new rulers.



M. Kahil

Reformer Gorbachev replaced amidst economic, political crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Mikhail Gorbachev, who was replaced as president on Monday, brought sweeping political change to the Soviet Union and revolutionised Kremlin foreign policy, only to see the country brought to the brink of economic collapse and political chaos.

After six years of perestroika and new freedoms few could have dreamed of during decades of hardline dictatorship, his popularity has been battered by food shortages, ethnic strife and the struggle to drag the economy into the modern age.

The battle over the shift to a market economy has highlighted deep-set divisions between reformers and conservatives, and left Mr. Gorbachev sitting uncomfortably on the fence.

Internationally, Mr. Gorbachev has altered the superpower relationship, meeting repeatedly American presidents. He has also boosted disarmament, pulled Soviet troops out of Afghanistan, and joined international condemnation of former close ally Iraq.

He has overseen the establishment of diplomatic ties with a number of ideologically alien

states, including South Korea and Saudi Arabia.

In July in London, Mr. Gorbachev met the leaders of the group of seven leading industrial democracies but failed to persuade the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan to bail out his stricken economy.

U.S. President George Bush visited Moscow in late July for a summit meeting that resulted in a major arms control agreement which Mr. Gorbachev said means the cold war will never return.

Mr. Gorbachev paved the way for German unity by allowing a peaceful revolution in Eastern Europe in which hardline communist regimes were successfully dismantled and the Warsaw Pact was all but dismembered.

Mr. Gorbachev has also presided over the abolition of the communists' 72-year monopoly on power in the Soviet Union, arousing vociferous opposition among diehard party conservatives determined to preserve old-style communism.

In the streets, the population is increasingly unimpressed by his other achievements as long as food and basic goods are in

short supply.

Strikes, unprecedented in the Soviet Union, now undermine industrial production. The Kremlin leadership was jeered during the 1990 annual May Day parade in Moscow's Red Square.

Nationalist ferment is bubbling in the country's fringe republics.

His domestic political reforms included the creation of a multi-party system, and changing the constitution to give real power to the parliaments in Moscow and the 15 republics.

After four years as Communist Party chief, a post he assumed on March 11, 1985, Mr. Gorbachev became president of his country in May 1989, providing himself with a solid legal basis and indirect popular mandate for his powers.

Four months later he purged the ruling politburo of hardliners after sweeping more than 100 old-timers from the policy-making party central committee.

He reinforced his authority in 1990 by being appointed executive president, at the

same time pushing the party slightly to one side in a bid to block any organised resistance to his reforms.

Having taken power at the age of 54, the youngest Kremlin leader since Josef Stalin, Mr. Gorbachev quickly impressed his countrymen and the outside world with his vigorous but informal style of leadership.

The result was a ferment unmatched in Soviet history since the times of Nikita Khrushchev, who denounced Mr. Stalin in 1956 and, like Mr. Gorbachev, encouraged a cultural thaw which led to the publication of outspoken books and more frankness in the press.

As the scale of Mr. Gorbachev's ambitions became clear, so did the extent to which his policies met resistance in the vast party and government bureaucracy and deep-rooted apathy among millions of Soviet people.

From the summer of 1986 on, he increasingly filled his speeches with attacks on his opponents and pledged no let-up in his drive for change.

He put a premium on unity and discipline in the party, demonstrated in November

1987 when he sanctioned the dismissal of Boris Yeltsin as chief of the Moscow city party for apparently being too zealous.

For many people the most visible aspect of Mr. Gorbachev's rule was his crack-down on drink. Stiff measures to cut vodka output resulted in long queues outside liquor stores and a boom in illegal distilling.

Mr. Gorbachev embarked on street tours of major cities and industrial regions where his breezy, joking style — always coupled with injunctions to work harder — contrasted with the images of frailty and old age of previous Soviet leaders.

During foreign visits, his "walkabouts" among welcoming crowds produced an enthusiasm dubbed "Gorbysmania" and nightmares for his security men.

Taking the lead in a new policy towards dissent, he personally telephoned physicist Andrei Sakharov, spiritual leader of the 1970s dissident movement, in December 1986 to tell him he was being freed from internal exile.

Mikhail Sergeyevich Gor-

bachev was born into a peasant family on March 2, 1931, in a northern Caucasus village near Stavropol. He took a law degree at Moscow University before returning to work at Stavropol, a major agricultural region.

Party chief in Stavropol at the age of 35, he was summoned to Moscow in 1978 to take charge of agriculture and in 1979 was made a non-voting member of the politburo.

Westerners who have met Mr. Gorbachev describe him as a highly intelligent man who displays a charm and ease of manner rare among past Soviet leaders. His wife Raisa also has a self-assurance rarely found among previous Soviet "first ladies."

In May 1990 the Soviet parliament voted him a 160 per cent pay rise, to 2,300 roubles (\$3,680 a month after tax, and gave him official residences near Moscow and in the Crimea.

He lists his hobbies as reading, theatre, music, cinema and walking in the forest.

His daughter Irina, a doctor in Moscow, is married to a surgeon and has two daughters.

Hardliners topple Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

of the Soviet security apparatus — the KGB, the Defence Ministry and the Interior Ministry — as well as the two top civilian posts under Mr. Gorbachev, the vice president and the prime minister.

Pavel Vostokov, a spokesman for Mr. Yeltsin, said outside the parliament building that Mr. Gorbachev had been "deposed" as his vacation dacha in the Crimea.

Mr. Yeltsin, who in June won a landslide election to become the first popularly elected president in Russia's history, termed the actions of Mr. Yanayev and others a "coup d'etat, which can only be called a state crime."

He then read a decree in which he called the hardliners "anti-constitutional." The decree also said that all resolutions passed by the committee should be considered illegal and invalid, and that any officials who carry out the committee's orders will be prosecuted.

Thousands of protesters converged on the parliament building to resist any efforts by the Soviet military to take the building or arrest Mr. Yeltsin and his vice president, Alexander Rutskoi.

Mr. Yeltsin's office is on the third floor of the building, known as the "Russian White House," about two kilometres from the Kremlin.

The demonstrators erected barricades of bricks and wooden boards in the streets around the building. They pushed several blue-and-white trolley buses off their electrified lines and packed them blocking traffic, across Kalinin Prospekt, one of Moscow's main four-lane arteries.

Some members of the peaceful crowd, holding red, white and blue Russian flags, climbed atop the trolley buses and cheered in support of Mr. Yeltsin.

"The president of Russia got his credentials from the people and nobody else can remove him from those duties," Mr. Yeltsin told demonstrators.

In a statement read to the Manezh Square demonstrators, he said: "No matter what reasons they offer to justify this, we are having a rights, reactionary and unconstitutional coup d'etat."

"I'm not going to order my troops to shoot Boris Yeltsin," one military commander was quoted as saying.

It was unclear whether the confrontations would lead to large-scale resistance.

Reports said some internal airports around the country were being closed, although airlines said operations appeared to be normal at Moscow's international airport.

Military action was reported in other Soviet republics. In the breakaway Baltic, Soviet warships reportedly blocked the main harbour in Riga and troops silenced Lithuanian television and radio.

The Soviet military commander of the Baltic region informed the governments he was assuming control of their countries and they faced arrest if they resisted, Latvian officials said in Copenhagen.

Leaders in all three republics were holding emergency meetings and appealing for calm.

Announcers on Leningrad Television read the TASS announcement and said Leningrad's reformist mayor, Anatoly Sobchak, had been removed.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, a key architect of Mr. Gorbachev's reform-minded international policies, said the West should move to back reformers in the Soviet Union.

"What is happening now is a tragedy for the West, for the Soviet Union and for the East as well," he told the Associated Press.

Some independent Soviet media were silenced, and word of the takeover came from official outlets, such as the TASS news agency.

As supporters built anti-tank barricades around his headquarters at the Russian parliament, Mr. Yeltsin said he was taking control of all Soviet government institutions on the territory of his giant republic.

"Officials carrying out decisions of the (State Emergency Committee) ... are removed from their responsibilities. The Russian Federation prosecutor is to take urgent steps to bring these people to responsibility," Mr. Yeltsin said.

Mr. Yeltsin said the powers of the Soviet central defence ministry, interior ministry and KGB would be taken over by their Russian Federation equivalents.

The decree highlighted battleships between the union and republican authorities, months after Mr. Gorbachev and Mr. Yeltsin had appeared to settle a conflict over powersharing.

Twelve hours after the shock announcement, there were no reports of any violence. Eyewitnesses reported movements of troops and armour around the Soviet capital and in the separatist Baltic republics.

Mr. Yanayev told a news conference that Mr. Gorbachev had become overtaken during his six years in office and was resting and recovering his health in the Crimea.

"I should say that Mr. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is now on vacation," Mr. Yanayev said. "He is undergoing treatment in the south of our country. He is very tired after these years, and he will need some time to get better. We hope ... he will take office again."

Despite Mr. Yanayev's statement that the changes do not affect the Soviet Union's commitments to reform, the takeover threw into question Mr. Gorbachev's policies of creating a free-market economy, granting autonomy to the nation's republics and carrying out arms control agreements with the United States.

It was unclear if Mr. Yanayev, 53, little-known provincial official when Mr. Gorbachev chose him as his deputy in December, held the main power or if he was a figurehead.

At the council, armoured personnel carriers fired blanks to disperse demonstrators, but the protesters mounted the vehicles without resistance. Twelve drove away from the Kremlin with the protesters still on board, waving Russian flags.

Sources said the overthrow had been in the works since Friday. That day, a former Mr. Gorbachev aide and reformer, Mr. Alexander Yakovlev, had said publicly that Stalinist hardliners were plotting a coup. He also resigned from the party.

The announcement that Mr. Gorbachev had been ousted threw financial markets into chaos. Asian and European stock prices plunged and the dollar and gold rose sharply. On

the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones average at one point fell nearly 50 points in early trading.

During his six years in power, Mr. Gorbachev eased the Communist hold on everyday life, ended the party's official monopoly on power and began creating a free-enterprise system.

Mr. Gorbachev helped bring an end to communism in the East bloc by refusing to support repressive governments in the face of popular uprisings. His efforts helped end the 45-year cold war with the United States and the armed confrontation in the heart of Europe.

He added the words "perestroika" — restructuring — and "glasnost" — openness — to the world's vocabulary, and won the 1990 Nobel Peace Prize for his role in concluding arms treaties and ending the cold war.

Mr. Yanayev said he was declaring the state of emergency "with the aim of overcoming the profound and comprehensive crisis, political, ethnic and civil strife, chaos and anarchy that threaten the lives and security of the Soviet Union's citizens and its sovereignty, territorial integrity, freedom and independence."

Security Council members in condemning Iraq and ordering economic sanctions as well as the use of military force against Baghdad.

Some Soviet military advisors opposed to Moscow's stance reportedly stayed in Iraq during the Gulf war.

Moscow part-sponsored a Security Council sanctions-easing resolution which was passed on Thursday and which Iraq denounced as imposing impossible conditions on its sale of oil to buy food and medicine.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi congratulated Soviet President Gennady Yanayev on taking power from Mr. Gorbachev saying the move was a "magnificent act which would restore Moscow's prestige."

"The magnificent work which you carried out today ... is very important in order to restore the international prestige of the Soviet Union and the pride of the Soviet citizen which imperialism wished to step upon with its dirty feet," Colonel Qadhafi told Mr. Yanayev in a message issued by the Libyan news agency.

He said Libya, a Moscow ally since Col. Qadhafi seized power in a coup 22 years ago, would stick to what he called the "firm and historic" friendship with Moscow.

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World stunned; markets in chaos

(Continued from page 1)

over almost every assumption of Germany's foreign policy," one diplomat in Bonn commented.

Mr. Gorbachev's liberal foreign policy prompted the collapse in Eastern Europe of communism and the Berlin Wall, followed by the reunification last October of Germany.

Asian governments reacted grimly to the news of Mr. Gorbachev's ouster, with some going into emergency session.

In Japan, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu summoned his cabinet to an emergency meeting. Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said on television: "As a neighbouring country, we feel it is of utmost importance that the situation in the Soviet Union be stabilised."

On the financial markets, European dealers wiped as much as 10 per cent off the value of key stock prices and expected further plunges after the start of trading on Wall Street.

European Central Bank intervention failed to stem the dollar's rise. It gained six pfennigs against the mark and around one yen against the Japanese currency.

Oil prices jumped more than \$2 to their highest level since the Gulf war because of worries about Soviet supplies. The October future contract for Brent crude oil was trading at \$21.55 a barrel in London.

Gold, seen as a haven for nervous investors, gained nearly \$4 to trade at around \$362.15 an ounce.

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Cuba dethrones U.S. as Pan American Games champions

HAVANA (R) — The Pan American Games ended on Sunday with hosts Cuba dethroning the United States as the gold medal champion for the first time since the inaugural games 40 years ago.

After starting the final day one gold medal behind the United States, Cuba's boxers ensured an historic victory by winning 11 of the 12 gold medals in boxing.

Their arch-rivals the United States won the other boxing gold medal.

During the Aug. 2 to 18 competition between the 39 nations of the western hemisphere, Cuba won 149 gold medals to the United States 130.

The two countries, Cuba with a population of just 10 million and the United States with a population of 250 million, were the only nations to win more than 100 gold medals. Canada finished third with 22 gold medals.

It was the first time the United States had lost the gold medals since Argentina won the title at the inaugural games in 1951 when the United States sent only a small team, competing in only 15 of the 21 events.

"Cuba was America's sporting Vietnam," one Argentine journalist commented.

The United States had the consolation of winning the most medals overall taking 352, with Cuba second on 265 and Canada third with 126.

The gold medals win was a major political triumph for president Fidel Castro as he struggles to hold the Caribbean island together as one of the world's last Orthodox Communist nations.

There had been scepticism about whether Cuba, which is under siege economically because of a U.S. trade embargo and declining aid from former East European allies, could successfully stage the

games, let alone dethrone the United States as the gold medals winner.

But Mario Vasquez-Rana of Mexico, president of the Pan American Sports Association, said the games went off "perfectly" and had been remarkably free of ill-will.

"If I had to rate the games organisation on a scale of one to ten I would give Cuba 15 (fifteen)," he told reporters on the final day.

Many top American athletes missed the games to compete in other international events like the World Athletics Championship in Tokyo later this month but even their absence could not detract from the Cuban juggernaut.

They outperformed the Americans in events traditionally dominated by the United States like athletics, canoeing and weightlifting and even won their first ever gold medal in swimming.

There was even misery for the United States in the sports they invented like baseball and basketball where the Americans had to be content with just bronze medals.

To make matters worse, the U.S. was knocked out of the gold medal contest in men's basketball and baseball by Puerto Rico, an American territory with a population of just 3.5 million.

Puerto Rico went on to take the gold medal in Basketball beating Mexico but lost the gold medal to Cuba in baseball.

The games also marked the end of a 42-game winning streak by the U.S. women's basketball team which also won only bronze. In another major upset Cuba beat the United States in water polo.

There were some consolations for the United States as their skeet shooting team set the only

world record of the games and the Americans continued their advance in football winning the gold medal against a much-depleted Mexican side.

The only two major incidents during the games both involved baseball which probably sent a shiver through the organisers of next year's Barcelona Olympic Games where for the first time baseball will be a full medal sport.

In the worst on-field violence in the history of the games, Canada and Mexico's baseballers fought a wild brawl during a qualifying match in the first week which resulted in both coaches being taken to hospital.

In the other incident, the manager of the U.S. team was expelled from the game during the semifinal clash with Puerto Rico.

The most-photographed event of the games was President Castro presenting medals to American athletes and saluting the Star Spangled Banner, an action he had probably never done since coming to power in 1959 in a revolution that earned him the undying enmity of American governments.

In a fitting finale to the games, Cuba, which had won the first gold medal in the marathon, also won the last gold medal when their men's volleyball team beat Brazil.

FINAL MEDALS TABLE

HAVANA, The final medals table at the end of the Aug. 2 to 18 Pan American Games in Cuba Sunday.

| Country | Gold | Silver | Bronze | Total |
|-------------|------|--------|--------|-------|
| Cuba | 140 | 62 | 63 | 265 |
| U.S. | 130 | 125 | 97 | 352 |
| Canada | 22 | 46 | 59 | 127 |
| Brazil | 21 | 21 | 37 | 79 |
| Mexico | 14 | 23 | 38 | 75 |
| Argentina | 11 | 15 | 29 | 55 |
| Colombia | 5 | 15 | 21 | 41 |
| Venezuela | 4 | 14 | 20 | 38 |
| Puerto Rico | 3 | 13 | 11 | 27 |
| Chile | 2 | 1 | 7 | 10 |
| Jamaica | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 |
| Surinam | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| Trinidad | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Costa Rica | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Dom Rep | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Guatemala | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Nicaragua | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Ecuador | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Bahamas | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Uruguay | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Panama | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Bolivia | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Peru | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Virgin Is. | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Guyana | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Haiti | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |



Pete Sampras

Sampras beats Becker in U.S. Hardcourt final

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Pete Sampras won the U.S. Hardcourt Tennis Championship Sunday, and it was all Boris Becker's fault.

Becker, the top seed and the No. 1 ranked player in the world, double-faulted 10 times, including three straight points in the decisive fourth game of the final set.

Sampras, who came in seeded fifth, said that was the difference in his 7-6, 3-6, 6-3 victory at the Indianapolis Sports Centre.

"The match was based on one game in the third set," he said. "We were even in the first and second sets."

"He played one bad game. He handed it to me, and I took advantage of it. Then I held serve and won the match," said Sampras, who will use the victory as a springboard in Defence of his U.S. Open championship, which begins a week from Monday.

Becker, seeking his third U.S. Hardcourt title in four years, lost the first set on a 7-2 tiebreaker. Scolding himself and shouting in frustration throughout the second set, Becker broke service twice to even the match at one set apiece.

Both players held serve through the first three games of the third set, and Becker led 15-0 with an ace serve before his string of faults turned the match to Sampras.

Becker, who had made a change of rackets, faulted on seven straight serves, then lost the game on the next point after hitting the ball into the net on Sampras' return.

"I changed my racket, and the tension was much looser," Becker said. "They brought out some new balls that were faster than the old ones. I figured it out after

the first two double-faults. But after that, I had much fear, and that cost me the match."

"I had chances in the third set, but that game changed the match."

Sampras, who moved up to sixth in the computer world rankings with the victory, earned \$137,500 from a purse of \$1 million. Becker got \$72,380.

Sampras had a chance to virtually clinch the match in the sixth game of the final set, when he led Becker 4-1 and was at double-set point. Becker followed with an ace, twice forced the game to deuce and had two more aces for a brief reprieve.

Sampras was on the verge of another break in the eighth game, but the last two of Becker's 12 aces forced the ninth and deciding game. Sampras, who double-faulted only twice all match, easily held serve for the victory.

"I had a couple of set points, and he always seemed to come up with some big serves," Sampras said. "That's why he's a champion. In the third set, I wasn't going to do anything special ... just play my game. I'm not saying if he didn't do that (double-fault) I wasn't going to win, but that's the way it goes. I got my breaks and took advantage of them."

Becker won the only previous meeting between the two, 6-4, 6-4, last year in the semifinals at Stockholm. Sampras' only other victory this year was at Los Angeles.

"My game gets better the more I play," he said. "I think I'm playing better tennis. After losing in the first round at Montreal, I wasn't very confident, but I went to Los Angeles and got on a roll. I'm confident now and looking forward to flushing meadow."

LOCAL SPORTS IN BRIEF

Jordanian table tennis team in Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian national table tennis team Monday left for Damascus to take part in the 12th Arab Table Tennis Championships. The championships, which will be held over a period of 10 days, begins Tuesday with 16 Arab countries participating. The Jordanian delegation will also attend the meetings of the Arab Table Tennis Federation's general assembly, due to be held during the same period.

JTF to hold open championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordanian Tennis Federation (JTF) will organise a mixed doubles Open Tennis Championship which will start on Aug. 24 at the federation's courts at Al Hussein Youth City. The championship will be open to players of all nationalities, according to the federation spokesman Mohammad Al Sukhman. He said players wishing to take part in the championship could register their names at the federation or could call telephone 682796 before next Saturday.

Korda routs Ivanisevic for Volvo International title

NEW HAVEN, U.S. (AP) — Petr Korda took advantage of weary and sick Goran Ivanisevic, pouncing on his weak second serves in the second set to win the Volvo International for his first tournament triumph.

"I got lucky because Goran was tired," Korda said, after the 6-4, 6-2 victory.

Korda had a brief scare. When he was leading, 5-2, with Ivanisevic serving, he stumbled into the net hustling for a drop shot and aggravated a left ankle injury.

"All I thought is, 'come on, you have to keep playing,'" he said.

Korda continued and ran off four straight points as he finished

the tournament without losing a set.

Korda was exuberant, dropping to his back, running to shake hands with Ivanisevic, then going into the stands to hug his coach, Vladimir Zednik.

"It's unbelievable," Korda said about ending the winless drought. Ivanisevic, who had been pounding 120 mph (193 kph) serves throughout the tournament, had trouble breaking the 110 mph (177 kph) mark Sunday.

"I didn't have any power," he said. "I felt dead. I couldn't do anything."

Ivanisevic said he felt weak at breakfast, but it wasn't until the match wore on that he felt sick.

Seles beats Date at Slims of Los Angeles

MANHATTAN BEACH, California (AP) — Monica Seles beat upstart Kimiko Date in the championship of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles on Sunday, but the Yugoslav lost her No. 1 ranking before she even stepped on the court.

Date, who upset Gabriela Sabatini Saturday, was no match for Seles, losing 6-3, 6-1. The triumph, however, was not enough to prevent Seles from relinquishing the top spot in women's tennis to Steffi Graf of Germany.

Both players, it seemed, were victimized by Date's triumph over Sabatini. Date because it left her fatigued, and Seles because she had to beat someone more formidable than 112th worldwide to stay No. 1.

Seles needed to beat Sabatini, ranked third, and No. 4 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. The top-seeded Yugoslav beat Sanchez Vicario in the semifinals, but Sabatini fell in three sets to the unseeded Date.

Seles said she knows she will

have to earn the top ranking next week at the U.S. Open.

"If I do well at the U.S. Open, which is the most important tournament for me now, I'll definitely be No. 1," she said. "If not, I don't deserve it."

Date became the first Japanese woman to advance to the final of a major tournament.

She got off to a 3-0 lead in the first set but faltered after that, hurt by Seles' quickness and her own errors. Date committed 38 unforced miscues during the 71-minute match, compared to Seles' 13.

Seles lost only five points on her serve in the second set while her opponent dumped forehands into the net and hit backhands long.

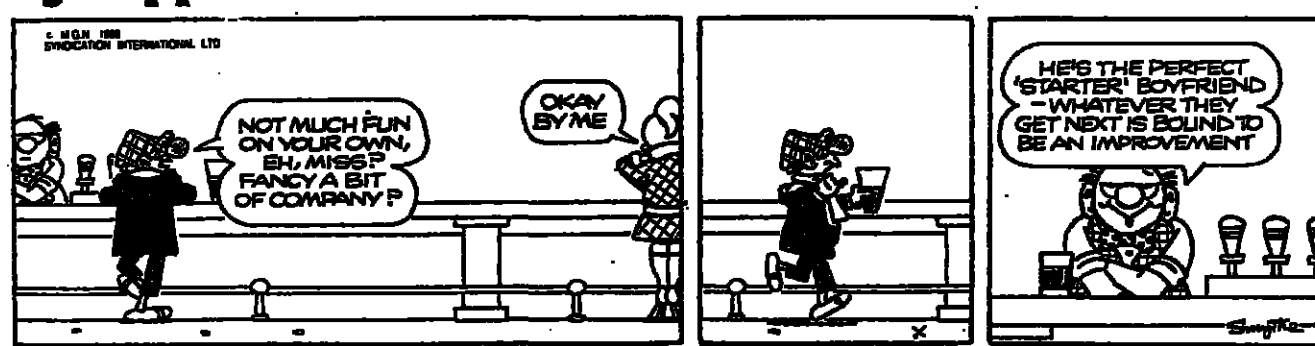
"She serves good and mixes it," Seles said. "She hit winners out of nowhere. I needed time to adjust to her. At 3-2 when I broke her, I got used to move of her game."

The only game Date won in the second set was a struggle.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY AUGUST 20, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: With the moon in Capricorn trining Venus you might want to make a point out of watching what others are up to so that you are sure not to be over looking anything new of importance.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Spend your day handling those obligations that are a natural part of your everyday living be they official, business or even highly personal.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think out what you have agreed to do with your partners and control that tendency to go off on some tangent which can certainly cause you much trouble.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) This is your time to actually show that you value the good will of new personalities who have recently come into your life instead of arguing with old high hat companions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think out what is the best manner in which you can get your promises handled with ease and facility and forget that urge to lambast one you can't abide.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Whatever your allies want should be scrupulously worked on by you without all that accent on yourself so to be thoughtful and give others assistance.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) This is certainly your time to keep attention focused on the pro-

ject at hand even though you'd like to make an excuse about some errand and be off and away.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are able now to find that pleasure that brings you an escape from worry and builds up a new happiness for you don't spend a lot on it.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your desire for some more peace and quiet at home is gained if you avoid making any of those critical remarks at which you are so apt in doing.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) This is your moment to actually show your efficiency in a quiet and unpretentious manner and then you get respect of others you deserve.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the need now to show all about you that you do value and appreciate those astute businessmen who have found the clue to security in this current society.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is the time when you have such a restful discontent you want to throw overboard and do something spectacular but reckless which could cause you real trouble.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you have it in your power to quietly but effectively get rid of whatever has been bugging you by some personal attention to these problems without comments to others.

Your birth stone = Ambition

World Resources - Dagen & Co. Inc.
Jewellers - Gems

Amman - Ro De Jeyero
Amman - Amra Hotel - 6th. floor

THE BETTER HALF

By Barnes



"Are you trying to bend over enough to TOUCH your toes or just to see them?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

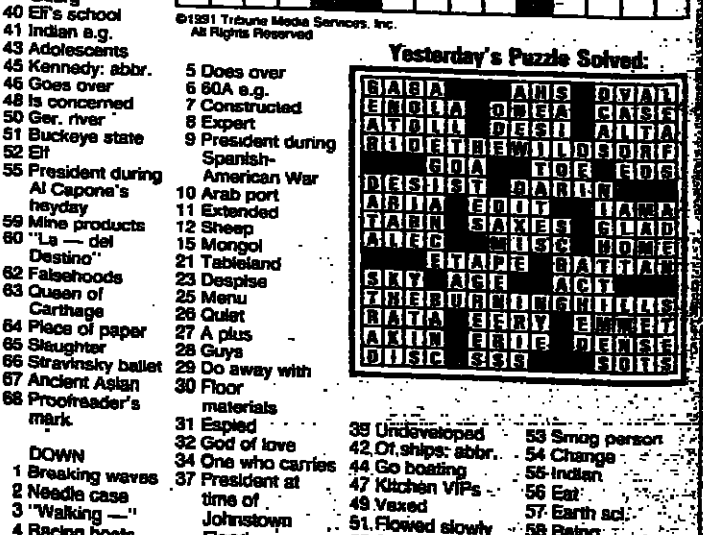
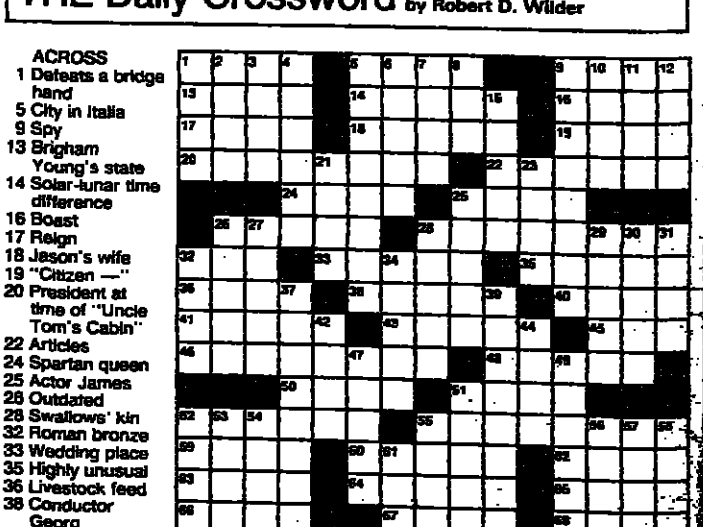
HIWEL
WONIG
GERUDD
PORTSY

ANSWER: HE

Yesterday's Jumbles: JOINT BLOAT SNITCH OSSIFY

Answer: He used to be a yes-man, but now when his wife says no -- HE SAYS NO, TOO

THE Daily Crossword by Robert D. Wilder



Financial Markets

Jordan Times
In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency | NEW YORK CLOSING 18/8/91 | TOKYO CLOSING 19/8/91 |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sterling Pound | 1.6582 | 1.6279 |
| Deutsche Mark | 1.7645 | 1.8090 |
| Swiss Franc | 1.5445 | 1.5500 |
| French Franc | 5.9490 | 6.1510 |
| Japanese Yen | 147.31 | 148.00 |
| European Currency Unit | 1.1625 | 1.1355 |

USD Per STL
European Currency Unit in USD
Eurocurrency Interest Rates

Date: 19/8/91

| Currency | 1 MTH | 3 MTHS | 6 MTHS | 12 MTHS |
|------------------------|-------|--------|--------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 5.56 | 5.62 | 5.75 | 6.00 |
| Sterling Pound | 11.00 | 10.87 | 10.81 | 10.56 |
| Deutsche Mark | 9.12 | 9.18 | 9.31 | 9.37 |
| Swiss Franc | 6.18 | 6.00 | 7.93 | 7.81 |
| French Franc | 4.25 | 4.37 | 4.57 | 4.50 |
| Japanese Yen | 7.28 | 7.18 | 6.93 | 6.68 |
| European Currency Unit | 9.68 | 9.87 | 9.97 | 9.94 |

Interest rate for 100,000 J.O.D.
Precious Metals

Date: 19/8/91

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm | Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold | 368.55 | 6.90 | Silver | 2.04 | 0.95 |

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 19/8/91

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| U.S. Dollar | 0.692 | 0.674 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1162 | 1.1221 |
| Deutsche Mark | 0.776 | 0.797 |
| Swiss Franc | 0.4370 | 0.4392 |
| French Franc | 0.1152 | 0.1158 |
| Japanese Yen | 0.4990 | 0.5015 |
| Dutch Guilder | 0.3484 | 0.3501 |
| Swedish Krona | 0.1075 | 0.1080 |
| Italian Lira | 0.0525 | 0.0528 |
| Belgian Franc | 0.01905 | 0.01915 |

Other Currencies

Date: 19/8/91

| Currency | Bid | Offer |
|----------------|---------|---------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.7950 | 1.8050 |
| Lebanese Lira | 0.0760 | 0.0775 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.1840 | 0.1847 |
| Kuwaiti Dinar | - | - |
| Qatari Riyal | 0.1872 | 0.1880 |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000 | 0.2200 |
| Omani Riyal | 0.17500 | 0.17650 |
| UAE Dirham | 0.1872 | 0.1880 |
| Greek Drachma | 0.3500 | 0.3600 |
| Cypriot Pound | 1.4000 | 1.4300 |

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Date: 19/8/91

| Index | 17/8/91 | Close | 18/8/91 | Close |
|------------------|---------|-------|---------|-------|
| All-Share | 109.08 | | 108.56 | |
| Banking Sector | 103.01 | | 102.02 | |
| Insurance Sector | 117.42 | | 117.66 | |
| Industry Sector | 115.33 | | 115.44 | |
| Services Sector | 127.65 | | 127.54 | |

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

| | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------|
| One Sterling | 1.6240/50 | U.S. dollar | 0.6158/63 |
| One U.S. dollar | 1.6230/40 | Canadian dollar | 0.7530/40 |
| | 2.0530/50 | Deutsche marks | 0.5520/30 |
| | 37.41/45 | Dutch guilders | 0.3741/45 |
| | 6.1675/25 | Swiss francs | 0.7530/40 |
| | 1356/1357 | Belgian francs | 0.1356/57 |
| | 137.85/95 | French francs | 0.1378/55 |
| | 6.5920/70 | Italian lire | 0.065920/70 |
| | 6.0925/75 | Japanese yen | 0.0060925/75 |
| | 7.0100/50 | Swedish crowns | 0.070100/50 |
| One ounce of gold | 361.90/362.40 | Norwegian crowns | 0.036190/362.40 |
| | | Danish crowns | 0.036190/362.40 |
| | | U.S. dollars | 0.036190/362.40 |

Foreign cash aid to Algeria hinges on report from IMF

ALGIERS (R) — Foreign funding to help Algeria out of its debt crisis hinges on International Monetary Fund (IMF) approval of planned economic reforms, Economy Minister Hocine Benissad said Sunday.

"We are in the stage of talking with banks, financial institutions and the European Community (EC) to obtain finance. All are agreed to provide finance to boost our balance of payments but they are waiting the IMF team report," Mr. Benissad told parliament during debate on a mini-budget.

He said the IMF was due to report on an agreement to raise prices and limit a subsidy tax. Algeria was committed under an agreement with the former government to accept IMF conditions.

"We have inherited from the former government an agreement which limits our scope for manoeuvre and this pact contains conditions which we must respect," Mr. Benissad told deputies.

"It imposes firstly that we lift price subsidies during the year and limit the imposition of the compensation tax at the end of this year. If the IMF conclusions are negative it will reflect a negative sign for our creditors, who could adopt a non-positive position towards Algeria which will have serious repercussions in the short term," Mr. Benissad added.

If Algeria respected the agreement, he said, the IMF would give the green light for financial institutions to go ahead.

Algeria's foreign debt totals \$25 billion, much of it short term. The government ruled out rescheduling despite problems caused by falling oil prices and a devalued dinar.

The minister said the government would free prices but would also protect the poorest among Algeria's 25 million people.

In March the main trade union, the UGTA, launched the first two-day general strike in the country's history to protest at price increases. Official figures showed 80 per cent of workers — more than four million — backed the call.

IMF Director-General Michel Camdessus visited Algeria in July for discussions with the new government and urged commercial banks to help the country.

The mini-budget envisages raising spending by 55.5 billion dinars (\$3 billion). Debate on changes to the compensation tax continued.

The tax, additional to customs tariffs, is levied on most imports at between 25 and 100 per cent of their value. Revenue goes to a fund to help subsidise basic needs of the poor.

Meanwhile the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) has

reported that Algeria plans to boost its crude oil recovery rates and earn cash to foreign companies for a limited period.

The Nicosia-based oil industry newsletter said its detailed account of Algerian plans were based on explanations by the Minister Energy Nordine Ait Laoussine.

It said Algeria does not have access to technology and money to boost recovery rates at its fields — to 30 to 40 per cent from the current 25 per cent — and would need foreign firms' money and technical know-how.

Recovery rates show the amount of oil that could be produced from underground crude reserves. By using sophisticated and costly methods, — like injecting chemicals into the reservoir — the volume of oil pumped could be increased.

An increase in recovery rates will push production capacity and recoverable reserves dramatically.

MEES said oil in place at Algeria's biggest oil field Hassi Messaoud is 40 billion barrels and at 20 per cent recovery rate only eight billion barrels could be produced, but if the recovery rate was increased to 30 or 40 per cent the amount of oil that could be produced would increase by another four to eight billion barrels.

Foreign companies willing to take part in Algeria's proposed scheme would be granted production rights for a certain volume of crude for a specific period time.

"The volume of oil subject to the companies' production rights would be in some way related to the amount of the investment in question, the extra output to be recovered as a result of the investment, and the size of the advance payment," MEES said.

It said the details of the scheme is yet to be worked out.

"Although he concedes that the proposed policy of granting foreign companies production rights in respect of existing oil fields is a politically loaded issue, Mr. Ait Laoussine has no doubts that it is very much in the interests of Algeria from an economic standpoint," MEES said.

Algeria had signed oil exploration agreement with foreign firms, but this is a risky and lengthy way of boosting production capacity and reserves, MEES said.

Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali had recently announced that his government was prepared to sell 20 to 25 per cent of oil output rights at Hassi Messaoud oilfield in order to earn some foreign currency, MEES said.

Mr. Ghazali had indicated his government hoped to gain \$6 to \$7 billion in advance payments for production rights.

Survey suggests many U.S. banks expect to be bought out in few years

WASHINGTON (AP) — One in every six commercial banks responding to a survey expects to be bought out within a few years after Congress passed legislation removing 64-year-old barriers to interstate banking.

If that proves accurate, the number of commercial banks in the nation, which topped 14,000 five years ago, could shrink through mergers and failures from 12,250 now to less than 10,000, the fewest since the 1890s.

According to the survey, released by Grant Thornton, an accounting and management consulting firm, 17 per cent of the responding banks did not expect to survive as an independent institution through 1996.

Twenty-six per cent of the 632 banks responding, which ranged in asset size from \$50 million to \$3 billion, said they expected to be on the purchasing end of mergers in the next five years, while 58 per cent said they would not take part in merger activity.

Many analysts say fewer and bigger banks are needed if the industry is to survive increasing competition from huge foreign banks and other financial service providers ranging from brokerage firms to insurance companies.

But, consumer activists and bankers at small institutions warn that the demise of locally owned banks could dry up credit in small towns and rural areas, particularly for small businesses. They also worry that reduced competition could lead to higher fees for bank customers.

Two large mergers announced last month have focused attention on the merger trend. Chemical Banking Corp., the No. 6 bank holding company, said it would join with No. 9 Manufacturers Hanover Corp. and the seventh-largest, NCNB Corp. is merging with C-and-S-Sovran, the 12th biggest.

The survey results suggested that mergers are on the minds of bankers at institutions of all sizes. In fact, Norman Katz, the Grant Thornton banking consul-

tant who supervised the survey, said it probably understates the proportion of banks expecting to be merger targets because participants identified their institutions on the survey form.

"Some of them were probably reluctant to admit to it," he said. "I would not be surprised if the true number was 25 per cent to 30 per cent."

Even that may be an understatement of what will happen, he said. Respondents could be underestimating the acceleration that would occur if Congress passes legislation removing the last vestiges of interstate banking barriers in place since 1927, he said.

Seventy-nine per cent of the banks surveyed said interstate banking was the most likely of the changes proposed by the Bush administration to win congressional approval.

But support for the measure varied widely by bank size. Eighty per cent of banks with asset portfolios of more than \$500 million support it. Only 27 per cent with portfolios under \$100 million favour it. The measure enjoys greater support among banks in the northeast and west than in the Midwest and south.

Meanwhile, as a wave of consolidation begins to build in the nation's banking industry, so does the human toll.

Banks have laid off more than 10,000 workers in the past year and more cuts are coming as the industry shrinks through failures and mergers, experts have said.

The combination of Chemical Banking Corp. and Manufacturers Hanover Corp. is the latest example of the costly shakeout under way in the banking business.

The two giants, both struggling to shore up shaky loan portfolios, said a merger would result in one healthier institution. But, they admitted, it would also result in the loss of about 6,200 jobs from a combined work force of 45,000.

The cuts could be made by the end of the year when the merger is completed.

That news followed announcements of huge layoffs from Citicorp, 17,000. Chase Manhattan, 5,000 and Fleet-Norstar Corp., whose acquisition of the failed Bank of New England may trim 1,000 jobs.

There are conflicting estimates of total layoffs, primarily because many people find jobs with other banks across the country, according to interviews.

Already in the past year, about 10,000 banks jobs have been lost across the country, according to an estimate by Samuel Ehrenhalt, regional commissioner for the U.S. Bureau of Labour Statistics in New York, adding jobs cut from savings and loans and credit unions raises the total another 6,000, according to the bureau's Washington office.

And the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. reported total bank employment fell to 1,502 million workers in the first quarter of 1991 a drop of 23,000 from the year earlier.

Bankers are cleaning out their desks in the wake of a similar purge on Wall Street that followed the 1987 stock market crash. Based on the Wall Street experience, Brendan Burnett, senior vice president of Sullivan and Co., estimates about 20 per cent of the laid-off banking employees will leave the field altogether.

"A lot of folks have gone into

something that's totally different than what they were doing in the first 20 years of their careers," said Mr. Burnett, a job relocation specialist.

The axe seems to be falling on a wide range of workers, from middle management to back-office workers who help process accounts and securities.

Most vulnerable are bank officers who generate loans on real estate, hard hit by the recession, and office support staffers whose work can be contracted to outside companies at a lower cost.

One growth area is officers specialising in working out troubled loans for corporate takeover or real estate deals, said Raphael Soifer, banking analyst for Brown Brothers Harriman and Co.

Many banks, such as Citicorp and Chase Manhattan Bank, generally aren't targeting tellers or loan officers in their branches. The banks said they don't want to diminish the quality of service in the branches a key factor in the competitive consumer banking business.

Ken Mills, spokesman for Chase Manhattan, said "the consumer bank was hardly hit at all," during the bank's layoffs last fall. Most of the layoffs were in the bank's corporate finance, operations, and European offices, Mr. Mills added.

The currency jumped to 1.8230 marks in Europe by midday from 1.7605 marks late Friday. The mark also fell against other currencies as Germany's close proximity to the Soviet Union undermined confidence in the

Stock prices get knocked Gorbachev's ouster kicks up dollar, gold and oil prices

LONDON (Agencies) — Worldwide stocks plunged while the U.S. dollar, gold and oil prices surged following word that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was ousted from power by hardline conservatives.

Ten central banks stepped in to calm the foreign exchange markets, while at least two European stock exchanges suspended trading.

"There is no reason for people to panic in terms of the international markets, either the exchange market or the stock exchanges, and I hope they won't," Britain's Prime Minister John Major told reporters.

But dealers said trading was hectic and volatile throughout the world. One London oil broker, speaking anonymously, said, "everybody's got chaos all over the place."

Mr. Gorbachev's replacement "is probably the worst possible thing to impact on Western sentiment," said Ian Stephenson, head of equity sales at Salomon Brothers International in London.

Among the hardest hit was Germany because of its closeness to the Soviet Union. The DAX stock index closed down 155.40 points to 1,497.93.

In London, the Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100-stock index tumbled 109.4 points, or 4.2 per cent, at 2,511.6, by midday.

Earlier in Tokyo, the Nikkei stock average closed at 21,456.76, down 1,357.61 points, or 5.95 per cent. The tumble was the fifth largest in terms of points lost in Nikkei.

Stocks were also sharply lower throughout the rest of Europe and Asia, and many traders predicted Wall Street would also follow suit after trading begins.

The Milan Bourse, Italy's largest stock exchange, suspended trading in shares of major companies to stem the slide in stock prices. Many shares had been down 6-10 per cent in value.

In France, trading was suspended in several shares after they fell the full 10 per cent limit in early going. Those suspended include the insurance company AXA and tire maker Michelin.

While investors stayed away from stocks, markets for the dollar and gold were thriving. Both are considered safe havens in times of international turmoil, especially amid fears that the change in Soviet leadership could lead to civil unrest.

The dollar was higher in early New York trading and throughout Europe.

The currency jumped to 1.8230 marks in Europe by midday from 1.7605 marks late Friday. The mark also fell against other currencies as Germany's close proximity to the Soviet Union undermined confidence in the

German currency. "Germany is the one that will suffer," said David Deakin, foreign exchange manager at Nikko Bank (U.K.) Ltd.

Many dealers expressed fears that a flood of Soviet refugees would seek asylum in Germany. More than 300,000 Soviet soldiers are still stationed in former East Germany, and they might want asylum.

At least 10 central banks quickly engaged in concerted intervention to stem the dollar's rise and support the mark, dealers said. Germany's Bundesbank confirmed it sold dollars against the mark.

But dollar sales by the central banks were said to have been fairly light. "It was just to their name in the market," commented Shani Shamah, a corporate trader at Chase Manhattan Bank in London.

The intervention curbed dollar a bid, but the U.S. currency was expected to rise further dealers said.

Since it would be difficult, if not impossible, for central banks to buck the impact of such an enormous shift in global politics, the banks likely would be satisfied with some signs of stability.

The dollar also soared against the British pound, which was quoted at \$1.6215 compared with \$1.6610 late Friday.

Gold opened in London at \$362.10 per ounce, up \$3.85 from \$358.25 per ounce late Friday. At midmorning, bullion dealers fixed gold at a price of \$360.75.

In Zurich gold traded at \$362.50 an ounce by midmorning, down \$4.55 from Friday's close of \$357.75. In Hong Kong, gold rose \$4.95 to close at \$363.33 an ounce.

The dollar closed in Tokyo at 138.40 yen, up 1.50 yen from Friday's close.

Meanwhile, oil prices rose sharply in extremely active trading on the International Petroleum Exchange in London on fears that Soviet oil exports would be reduced or halted, although there were no immediate signs of disruptions.

The Soviet Union is a major supplier of gasoil to Europe. Gasoil is used mostly for diesel fuel.

The September contract for gasoil rose to \$218 for 100 tonnes from \$188 at the previous close.

North Sea Brent blend, a benchmark crude oil, for October delivery rose to \$21.20 a barrel from \$19.48 a barrel at Friday's close.

In other markets, prices on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange plunged 8.6 per cent Monday in the morning session following the removal of Mr. Gorbachev.

The blue chips index dropped to 369.55 points from a close of 404.37 point Sunday.

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Located in Abdoun; consists of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, and salons. The 200-square metre apartment is first floor. Annual rent is JD 6,000 unfurnished and JD 10,000 furnished — the furniture is brand new and the apartment is new and has not been used. Location: Abdoun, after the Housing Bank, near the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) headquarters, Al Abdullat building. Those interested can visit the apartment between 4 and 6 p.m. or call tel. 686763/824282 in the morning, Amman.

American Community School

The American Community School announces a new programme for 4 and 5 year olds for the 1991-92 school year. The new K-1 and K-2 class will provide a developmental programme with appropriate learning activities for each age group. The emphasis will be on presenting creative lessons designed to allow the pre-school and kindergarten age child to develop socially, physically, emotionally and academically in a positive environment.

Classes will be five days per week from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A reduced tuition and capital assessment rate will apply. Bus transportation is available for an additional fee. Please contact ACS (813944-6) for additional information.

Semi-Furnished Apartment For Rent

Location: The Al Al, the Jubilee Circle, near Al Wifaq Garden. Specifications: the building is newly constructed, one storey stone building (semi-villa). Area: 120-square metres. Consists of 2 bedrooms, salon, dining room, kitchen, 2 bathrooms and veranda with small front garden, garage, independent entrance. Preferably annual rent. Please call tel.: 660581

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Full time maid for a small family.
Call tel.: 660967

JORDAN TENNIS FEDERATION

The Jordan Tennis Federation announces the holding of mixed double tournament open for all nationalities and ages. The tournament will start on August 24, 1991 at 4 p.m.

Registration at the federation court
Tel.: 682796.
Registration fees JD 3 p.p.

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PRINCIPAL

Show: 5:10, 8:30 p.m.

PHILADELPHIA

Tel: 634144

Sean Connery & Christopher Lambert...in

HIGH LANDER II

Show: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30.

NUJUM

Tel: 675571

Fighting resumes on eve of talks on Yugoslavia's future

BELGRADE (R) — Fighting resumed Monday in a new conflict zone which Croatia says is the planned frontier of a greater Serbian state, dealing another blow a day before top-level talks on Yugoslavia's future.

Croatian radio reported renewed clashes in Okucani, 120 kilometres east of the republic's capital Zagreb, where several people were reported killed when security forces fought Serbian guerrillas for two days before a full Sunday.

It gave no details. Guerrillas attacked the Croatian police station in Pakrac, a mainly Serbian-populated town 25 kilometres to the north.

"The station is under huge attack from every direction," police in nearby Bjelovar said. Th Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug said there was intensive mortar shelling and gunfire in

nearby towns along a main road leading north to the Hungarian border.

All the flashpoints are in hitherto tranquil western Slavonia, an ethnically mixed area where local Serbs declared their autonomy from Croatia last week.

Federal army units moved tanks into the troublespots and army jets strafed Croatian positions Saturday. Croatia said Monday four soldiers, three members of the Croatian forces and at least 12 guerrillas had been killed at the weekend.

West Slavonia links up with the Serbian-held enclave of Krajina south of Zagreb. Croatia says Serbia, which it accuses of directing the guerrillas and the army, wants these areas to form its new western borders if federal Yugoslavia collapses.

Two days of talks on the future

shape of Yugoslavia are due to open Tuesday, involving the federal presidency and the more powerful presidents of Yugoslavia's six republics including adversaries Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic.

An adviser to Tudjman saw little chance of progress. "I don't know what can be negotiated as long as Serbia wants to create greater Serbia," he said at the weekend.

Stipe Mesic, a Croat who chairs Yugoslavia's eight-man collective presidency, hinted Sunday he might resign if the army did not curb its activities.

Monday's fresh fighting split federal for a latest plea for peace Saturday night, when the presidency urged the warring sides to stick to a tattered ceasefire it declared on Aug. 7.

Croatia has vowed to hold on to Okucani and to Kijevo, an isolated village in Krajina which guerrillas said Croat forces must quit by Tuesday or be "devastated."

Two powerful bombs also exploded overnight at a Jewish community centre and cemetery in Zagreb, but no one was hurt. The Croatian government condemned the bombings as attempts by terrorists — a term it usually uses for Serbian guerrillas — to blacken its name.

Some of Croatia's 600,000, strong Serbian minority say they fear an independent Croatia would be similar to one installed by the Nazis in World War II.

More than 200 people have been killed in clashes between Serbs and Croats, the two biggest ethnic groups, since Croatia and Slovenia declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

U.N. team to study Cambodian truce

BANGKOK (AP) — A United Nations team prepared Monday to study how the world body can strengthen a declared truce in Cambodia's 12-year war, a U.N. official said.

The team, sent by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar at the request of Cambodia's warring factions, will visit areas controlled by the guerrillas and by the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh, the official said.

The team of 12 military and civilian experts is to assemble in Bangkok late Monday, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The team is led by Gen. Timothy Dubuama of Ghana, military adviser to Mr. Perez de Cuellar. Gen. Dubuama headed a U.N. team that concluded in May that an informal Cambodian truce which began on May 1 was generally being adhered to.

Analysts say by the issue of monitoring the truce has intensified in recent weeks as both sides allege serious violations.

Son Sann, leader of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and acting president of the three-part guerrilla coalition, has

protested alleged attacks on his group in a letter to Mr. Perez de Cuellar.

The four Cambodian factions signed a formal agreement June 24 calling for a truce and a halt to receiving arms supplies from foreign countries. The resistance had received arms principally from China, while the Vietnamese-installed government had been Soviet-backed.

Gen. Dubuama's current mission is to help the U.N. chief decide, among other things, the size of the U.N. force needed to monitor those agreements.

He will also look into other military matters, including the Cambodians' request for help in clearing the country of hundreds of thousands of land mines.

The U.N. official said the team is expected to be in Phnom Penh for a week starting Friday. The group will also visit bases in or near Thailand run by the guerrilla groups — the Communist Khmer Rouge, the forces of Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Mr. Son Sann's group.

The U.N. team leaves for New York on Sept. 4 to report back to Mr. Perez de Cuellar. The Hun Sen government in

Phnom Penh wants only a small group of U.N. monitors. The largest guerrilla group, the Khmer Rouge, said in a broadcast monitored in Bangkok Monday that it wants an initial force of 500 to 700 monitors that would increase to 1,000.

The Khmer Rouge radio said it was vital that a U.N. monitoring force be sent as soon as possible. It suggested earlier that an alternative would be for a transitional U.N. authority to be sent "straightaway."

The Cambodians are to reconvene peace talks in Thailand next week that will involve the Supreme National Council, a national reconciliation body of guerrilla and government representatives.

The parties remain far apart in negotiations over a U.N. Security Council peace plan that envisions U.N.-supervised elections, but Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong last week indicated readiness to make concessions.

The Cambodian government was installed following a Vietnamese invasion in 1978 to oust the Khmer Rouge, under whose 1975-78 rule some 1 million Cambodians died from executions, famine and unrest.



Japanese live longest

TOKYO (AP) — For the fifth straight year, Japanese of both sexes can expect to live longer than anyone else, according to a government report. Japanese women born in 1990 are expected to live an average age of 81.81 years, the report said, up 0.04 years from the previous year. Japanese men, however, lost 0.05 years from their life expectancy, which stood at 75.86 years last year, said the report compiled by the Ministry of Health and Welfare. Life expectancies are calculated by projecting how long people born in a particular year can expect to live. Japanese women have had the world's longest life expectancy for six consecutive years. The report said Swiss women had the second highest life expectancy at 80.70 years in 1987-89, ahead of Sweden, France, and the Netherlands. Male life expectancy has been highest in Japan for five years. Sweden followed at 74.79 years in 1989, followed by Iceland, Switzerland and the Netherlands, in that order. The share of Japanese who will live past age 80 has doubled in the past 30 years — 46.7 per cent of the men and 67.7 per cent of the women born in 1990 are expected to live past 80, the report said. The three top causes of death for Japanese were cancer, heart ailments and strokes.

Transplant patient gets another heart after mismatch

SEATTLE, Washington (R) — An Oregon man who received a mismatched heart last week because of a hospital mix-up is in critical but stable condition after undergoing a second heart transplant operation Sunday. "The patient received the new heart in a four-and-a-half hour operation that began at 2:30 a.m. (0930 GMT). The surgeons say it is an excellent match." Oregon Health Sciences University Hospital spokeswoman Marcia Williams said. Last Wednesday, the hospital's surgeons accidentally transplanted a heart from a donor who was blood type A into the patient who is blood type O — an incompatible match. Ms. Williams told Reuters the mistake was caused by "an error in communication during the (organ) procurement process." Oregon doctors were able to stave off rejection of the transplanted heart while they waited for a second compatible donor heart to become available. "Everybody is very relieved that the transplant has taken place and the patient is doing well," Ms. Williams said.

Teen's tongue gets stuck to freezer

ALTOONA, U.S. (AP) — A toddler helped her 14-year-old uncle get out of a sticky situation when his tongue got stuck to the inside of a freezer. "I was in the freezer looking for something to eat, and I bent over to yell at her" or trying to climb into the refrigerator, Duane Della said of his 2-year-old niece, Melissa Garmann. When Della bent over, his tongue got stuck to the bottom of the freezer. "It was breathing hot air to melt the ice," he said. That didn't work, so he told Melissa to drag her high chair to the telephone, climb up, get the receiver and bring it to him, he said. He dialed 911, the number used for emergencies. "We couldn't understand what he was saying," one officer said of the call Friday. Rescuers finally came and poured warm water on Della's tongue to free him. He was shaken up but didn't have to be hospitalised, police said.

Soviet cannibal caught in Uzbekistan

MOSCOW (AP) — A man who escaped from a psychiatric hospital two years ago after killing and eating seven women has been captured in the Central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan, a newspaper reported Saturday. Nikolai Dzhumagaliev was sent to the Tashkent Psychiatric Hospital in 1980 after being found guilty of murder and cannibalism, the weekly newspaper Kuranty reported, quoting the Uzbek news agency Interfax. While being transported from Tashkent to an airport in another city in 1989, he fled from two escorting medical personnel, the Interfax report said. Mr. Dzhumagaliev was apprehended and arrested in the city of Fergana, in eastern Uzbekistan, according to a report put out by local police, Interfax said.

Gunmen kill 12 in Pakistan court

ISLAMABAD (R) — Gunmen shot five outside a court in Islamabad on 10 murder cases were being led out, killing at least 12 people, an official

involved in the killing, the official said by telephone. Most of the dead were on trial for a village murder in the special anti-terrorist court.

The accused were being escorted out of the court building to a police van to be taken to prison after a hearing when the gunmen struck.

No motive was given immediately for the killings. The massacre, the third in Punjab in recent weeks, would increase pressure on Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to deal with a crime wave in his home province.

Three gunmen appeared to be

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Opposition cries foul in Mexican elections

MEXICO CITY (R) — Opposition parties on the left and right cried foul in mid-term elections Sunday seen as a plebiscite on current economic policies and a test of the government's pledges of democratic reform.

The irregularities, denounced by the two leading challengers of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), were typical of those experienced in past elections and included the stealing of ballot boxes, failure to open polls in some places and lax checking of voters' identities.

PRI sources said the opposition was exaggerating the irregularities to embarrass President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, who has espoused his commitment to clean politics.

But the complaints, including over 500 lodged by the conservative National Action Party (PAN) in the central state of San Luis Potosi, highlighted the government's inability to hold elections that are anything but controversial.

The PRI, the longest ruling party outside of the Communist world, has repeatedly been accused of rigging federal and state polls to maintain its grip on power. It has won almost every major election since it was created 62 years ago.

Electoral reforms, including new voter roles and identification cards, transparent ballot boxes and a new federal electoral institute, were approved by congress last year to ensure that the vote would be free and fair.

But according to Ricardo Pascoe Pierce, chief spokesman for

the centre-left Democratic Revolution Party (PRD), the reforms amounted little more than window dressing.

"Everything is the same... only it has been aggravated by the fact that there have been so many promises by the government that this wouldn't happen and it has turned out to be very dirty indeed," Mr. Pascoe said.

"We believed they'd be decent elections but the fact of the matter is they were not," said PAN spokesman Alberto Loyola.

Apart from widespread irregularities, Mr. Loyola said the poll had been marred by at least one outbreak of violence when suspected sympathisers ran off with ballot boxes in the PAN stronghold of Leon in central Guanajuato state.

In the southeastern state of Oaxaca, where Mr. Pascoe said less than 30 per cent of the polling stations had been opened three hours after they were supposed to be, the PRD was also considering a call for annulment.

Asked about the complaints of ballot-rigging, Rafael Garcia Garza, chief spokesman for the Federal Electoral Institute, said that there were "reports of some incidents which are being clarified."

The ballot was for all 500 congressional seats, half the 64 seat Senate and six state governors, marked the first nationwide elections since 1988 when Mr. Salinas was elected with a mere 50 per cent of the vote.

It had been seen as a test of support for Mr. Salinas' economic reforms.

Mob actions cause concern about Haitian democracy

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Mob intimidation of the courts and legislature are causing apprehension about President Jean-Bertrand Aristide's populist brand of democracy.

"The arbitrariness of mob rule can destroy our budding democracy, which must be synonymous with the rule of law," said Jean-Claude Bajoux, a prominent Socialist.

Last Tuesday, about 1,000 activists from slum organisations laid siege to the legislative palace, looted and burned the offices of two dissenting groups and roughed up a lawmaker.

They threatened other legislators with the "flaming necklace" — death by a burning car tire around the neck — unless they stopped trying to censure Rene Prevail, Mr. Aristide's prime minister. The legislators went home.

At the end of July, a court quickly tried Roger Lafontant, deposed dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier's security chief, and 21 collaborators on charges of attempting a coup in January.

Mr. Aristide, who took office in February, said he wanted justice to be swift and severe.

In this case, all defendants were convicted in just 24 hours and nearly all were sentenced to life at hard labour, although jurists say the maximum under law

was 15 years.

Activists from the slums had threatened the judge if Mr. Lafontant, who led the Tonton Macoute terror network, and the others were not convicted.

Many Haitians were appalled and embarrassed. Jean-Jacques Honorat, a prominent human rights activist, called it "a parody of justice, which the public saw as a shame for the Haitian judiciary and the country as a whole."

President Aristide, a 38-year-old Roman Catholic priest, has denied any role in the mob actions or threats, but has not explicitly condemned them.

A government statement last Wednesday criticised the attack on the legislature only mildly, describing it as contrary to Mr. Aristide's efforts to build a peaceful society with respect for human rights.

In a speech to student activists Aug. 4, the president defended the use of popular pressure.

He indicated that if the judge had not been threatened, Mr. Lafontant might not have received a life sentence.

Mr. Aristide embraced liberation theology as a priest and advocated "active non-violence."

He helped lead a grass-roots campaign against the Duvalier dynasty, which ruled this impoverished Caribbean nation for three decades.

S. Korean soldier jumps to his death

SEOUL (Agencies) — A South Korean soldier, shouting slogans calling for Korean reunification, jumped in flames to his death from a provincial university building, a hospital spokesman and witnesses said Monday.

Private Sohn Sok-Yong, 21, who was on leave, doused himself with paint thinner, ignited it and jumped from the top of a four-storey building in Taegu University, 235 kilometres southeast of Seoul, witnesses said.

"I contribute myself to reunification my homeland," the witnesses quoted Mr. Sohn, a former special education student in Taegu University, as shouting when he jumped from the building at around midnight Sunday.

Mr. Sohn was taken to the Keimyung University Dongsan Hospital where he died about five hours later, a hospital spokesman said. Police were investigating the exact cause of death. Students were guarding the body of Mr. Sohn, who had been conscripted into the army, in the hospital mortuary.

A series of violent anti-government demonstrations by students demanding the government allow an inter-Korean rally for reunification, including a march from North to South down the peninsula across the heavily fortified border, engulfed South Korea last week.

Nine young South Koreans immolated themselves earlier this year in anti-government protests. Meanwhile five police were found guilty Monday of beating a student to death earlier this year, an incident that plunged the government into crisis and triggered seven weeks of the most violent protests since 1987.

In delivering the sentences — none more than 3½ years — Seoul district criminal court Judge Park Jun-Su said the court considered the killing of student Kang Kyung-Dae unintentional.

Robertson Kan Hock Voon, 53, who was killed by Mr. Frankum on an escalator, was leaving the plaza after photocopying material for his daughter's art project.

Australian state bans guns after 8 killed

SYDNEY (AP) — Military assault weapons were banned in New South Wales state Monday in the wake of a shopping centre rampage in which eight people were killed by a man neighbours called "quiet and maybe lonely."

State Premier Nick Greiner told a news conference it was ridiculous for weapons that cannot be imported into other states to be available in New South Wales.

Police said Wade John Frankum, a 33-year-old taxi driver, stabbed a 15-year-old girl to death in a coffee shop at the Strathfield Plaza to start Saturday afternoon's 10 minutes of carnage.

He then pulled a military-style, semi-automatic rifle out of a postal-pack cylinder tube. He shot and killed four people in the coffee shop, including the owner, and two others as he fled to a roof-top parking area.

After peppering a nearby train station with bullets, injuring several more people, he briefly took a woman hostage. But he inexplicably let her go, saying "I'm sorry," as he left the car.

The woman then heard a single shot behind her as Mr. Frankum shot himself in the head. He died instantly.

Police said they have no motive for the man who had no known criminal record and had not been receiving psychiatric treatment. "It's hard to figure out," a police officer who was not identified told a news conference Sunday.

Police said they found a large collection of violent magazines and books at his apartment. Among them was American Psycho, a controversial novel by American author Bret Easton Ellis that graphically details a serial killer's life.

Six people out of an estimated dozen injured remain hospitalised, all in stable condition. Six of those murdered — two men and four women — died at the plaza. A 47-year-old woman died about eight hours after the shooting.

One victim was in Sydney visiting her cancer-ridden father in a nearby hospital. Another, 15-year-old Roberta Armstrong, had just entered the coffee shop to visit a friend when Frankum stabbed her, leaving the foot-long (30-centimetre) knife in her body.

Robertson Kan Hock Voon, 53, who was killed by Mr. Frankum on an escalator, was leaving the plaza after photocopying material for his daughter's art project.

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Reports of Gorbachev's replacement stun Asian leaders

TOKYO (AP) — The ouster of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev could have enormous ramifications for Asia, from the future military balance in the region to U.S. ties with China.

Deep concern about Soviet instability was reflected in Asian stock markets, which tumbled Monday as investors panicked. Share prices dove nearly 6 per cent in Tokyo and even more in other Asian markets.

Official reaction from Asian governments was muted as they scrambled to get information on developments in Moscow.

The Japanese cabinet convened an emergency meeting Monday evening, and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said he was seeking clarification from his embassy in Moscow.

"I strongly hope that the leadership change will not influence the positive policies of perestroika and new thinking diplomacy," said government spokesman

Misaoji Sakamoto.

Philippine President Corason Aquino, who has weathered seven attempted coups himself, said she viewed events in the Soviet Union with "grave concern."

"We hope that the progress towards world peace — very welcome and great strides — achieved under the leadership of President Gorbachev will continue to be preserved and enhanced further," she said.

In Islamabad, Pakistan, Muslim insurgents struggling to topple the Communist-style government in Afghanistan said Mr. Gorbachev's ouster could derail attempts to end the war in their homeland.

"Those who invaded Afghanistan are again in power and they won't be saying it was a mistake," said Masood Khalili, a spokesman for Jamiat-E-Islami, or Party of Islam. He referred to Mr. Gorbachev's often repeated claim

that the Red Army's invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 was a "bleeding wound."

The Soviets withdrew in February 1989 under a U.N.-brokered accord, but Moscow continues to provide military and humanitarian aid to Kabul.

A Pakistan Foreign Ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that talks for a final settlement between the Afghan resistance groups and the Soviets may be "down the drain."

But China, which brutally suppressed pro-democracy movements with a military crackdown in 1989, might welcome the return of conservative Soviet hardliners to power.

China's headline leaders in private have described Mr. Gorbachev as a traitor to socialism, and Washington might be pressed to improve relations with Peking if Gorbachev's ouster leads the

U.S. government to perceive a greater Soviet military threat, analysts said.

"China will play this card, you can bet that," said Robert Broadfoot, an investment risk analyst based in Hong Kong. "It plays nicely into China's hands, no matter how you look at it."

Analysts said Mr. Gorbachev's departure could derail Soviet rapprochement with several neighbouring countries, including Japan and South Korea.

Takayuki Ito, analyst at the Slavic Research Centre in Sapporo, northern Japan, said Mr. Gorbachev's ouster would complicate negotiations on a long-standing territorial dispute between Tokyo and Moscow preventing the two countries from signing a World War II peace treaty.

Tokyo had pinned hopes for regaining at least part of the territory seized by the Soviets at

the end of the war on Mr. Gorbachev.

South Korean officials said they feared Mr. Gorbachev's departure would derail rapprochement after decades of cold war estrangement.

In the Philippines, Mr. Gorbachev's removal was expected to influence debate over the future of the U.S. military presence. The lease on Clark Air Base and Subic Bay Naval Base expires Sept. 16 and a new lease is up for a Philippine Senate vote.

The fragile Cambodian peace process also could be disrupted by a sharp reversal in Soviet policies.

Under Mr. Gorbachev, Moscow helped accelerate negotiations by cutting back on both economic and military aid to the Communist Phnom Penh regime and to the Vietnamese govern-

